

Table of flight destinations and times including Abu Dhabi, Alitalia, Aer Lingua, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Chomsky on Harry Truman

Review

With European weather

Mole people of New York

Plus: The new A&R men

Exclusive interview

Chris Patten: how Asia has changed me



This section, page 9

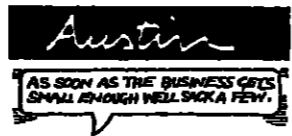
Major retreats on ending job rights for 10m

Patrick Wintour and Suzanne Milne

JOHN MAJOR yesterday beat a hasty tactical retreat over leaked government plans, championed by Michael Heseltine...

Working poll

- 2 in 10 say they would work in a small business... 1 in 10 think small businesses are a waste of time...



firms and would therefore be subject to discrimination in breach of European Union law. Earlier government legislation removing employment rights from all workers employed for less than two years...

Versace turns up the heat in Milan

Susannah Frankel Fashion Editor

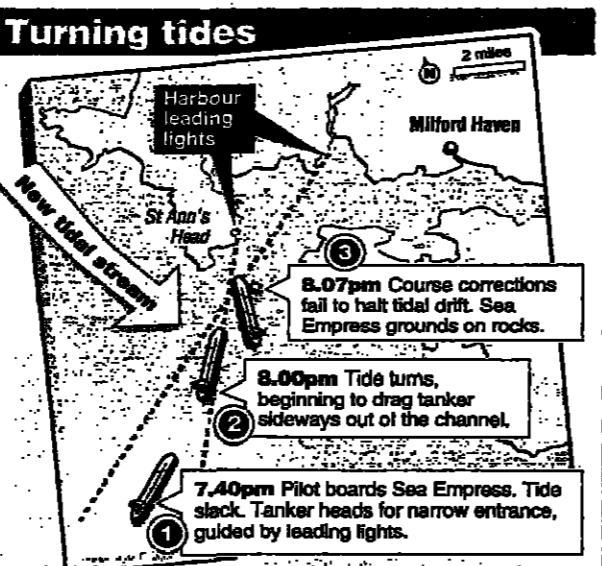


AN ARMY of super models filled the catwalk at the Versace show in Milan last night, capping a year in which Italy's king of glamour has been plagued by rumours of ill-health.

Tide change put tanker on rocks

David Fairhall and Keith Harper

THE oil tanker, Sea Empress, went on to rocks at Milford Haven last month because those in charge of the vessel failed to anticipate a changing tidal stream across the estuary entrance...



The bulletin gives no indication why the Sea Empress attempted the entrance at such an awkward moment - just before low water, in darkness, with the offshore tide on the turn...

environmental catastrophe. The MAIB bulletin contradicts rumours that communication difficulties between pilot, captain and helmsman played a part. But it does comment that "the master and the pilot had not discussed and agreed a plan for the approach to the entrance to the west channel".

Patten looks to low-tax future

Alex Brummer in Hong Kong and Michael White

CHRIS PATTEN yesterday set out his stall for a post-1997 bid for the Tory leadership after five years as Governor of Hong Kong in which he has come to accept that lower taxes and public spending are vital to renewed economic vitality in Britain.

Train-spotting advertisement with stars and text: 'Hollywood come in please your time is up... Train-spotting is here and it's toe-curlingly good'

Inside

G2 advertisement

Cartoon advertisement

Barcode and product information

NOW SHOWING IN THE WEST END STARTS TODAY AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU

Sketch

How Joe deflated my early hubris



Simon Hoggart

A DULL day in the Commons, so I decided to write about Joe Minogue instead.

Joe was deputy news editor of the Guardian in Manchester when I joined the paper, many years ago.

For instance the news editor, Harry Whewell, often bawled you out, but would insist on covering up the total on your expenses sheet as he signed, on the grounds that no Guardian reporter would ever dream of fiddling.

It was a time of great change in newspapers. Traditionally, reporters had been bright working class boys who had missed higher education but were too clever for manual work.

First night

New themes in Synge-song land

Michael Billington

The Beauty Queen of Leenane Royal Court Theatre Upstairs

HARDLY a week goes by without the emergence of a 25-year-old dramatist. The latest, in a rich period for new writing, is Martin McDonagh.

The Beauty Queen of Leenane — co-produced by Galway's Druid Theatre and the City Centre — is an astonishingly assured debut.

McDonagh takes a stock form and reanimates it in several ways. In the first place, by showing that Maureen, far from being a self-pitying spinster, is every bit as ruthless as her exploitative mother.

Doctors speak out against criminal prosecution threat

DOCTORS yesterday spoke out against a growing threat of criminal prosecution over clinical mistakes or negligence, writes David Brindle.

destroyed by their own hubris. And just as Oedipus Rex on his own eyes, so it was Blackpool's fullback who sealed defeat with an own goal in the final minute.

For some reason this was printed as written, and I swaged into work to hear the plaudits of my colleagues. Oddly enough, none of them mentioned the piece — now, I realise, out of kindness.

Finally Joe, then night editor, arrived for work at 5. "Read your report," he said in his broad Lancashire accent.

"I muttered something falsely modest. 'Will you answer me one question?' he went on. Of course, of course. 'Were they playing with a ball, or with a bleeding duck?'"

He will be hugely missed. Back in the Commons, the big news was that scientists have found a way to clone identical sheep.

Imagine how Tony Blair would feel if they were faced with 300 identical Fabricants, each with a different name.

Mr Clarke did little to dispel speculation about a rate cut on Radio 4 yesterday. He said he was "very nervous" about the economy, but he hinted that his confident predictions of 3 per cent growth this year were based, in part, on cheaper borrowing.

realise, is not so much wistful as severely damaged. McDonagh also brings a post-modern irony to his Synge-song fable. The Galway village has become a global village as the characters moodily stare at Australian posters when the bus arrives.

McDonagh, who has Galway forebears but lives in London, says he is attracted to the National Theatre Studio, is both exploiting and exposing Celtic myth. This is a world where the radio still spews out Della Murphy singing The Spinning Wheel.

Garry Hynes's production expertly catches the play's tension between ancient and modern when the bus reaches the cottage set, down to the illuminated crucifix, is a model of rustic realism, and Anna Manahan as the slyly oppressive mother and Tom Murphy as the message-bearing Ray lend their big scene the lustre of high comedy.

Doctors speak out against criminal prosecution threat

Doctors yesterday spoke out against a growing threat of criminal prosecution over clinical mistakes or negligence, writes David Brindle.

Prospect of referendum is aimed at calming Tory rightwing critics ahead of European white paper

PM hint on single currency

Michael White Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR yesterday dangled the prospect of an early government commitment to a referendum on British membership of a single European currency in front of restless rightwing critics in a calculated bid to calm his party ahead of next week's European white paper.

Proposed by Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the back-bench 1922 Committee and an arch-loyalist, the Prime Minister insisted that his own agnostic views had not changed on the option: "It could be a necessary step."

Home loan cut set to boost Clarke

Larry Elliott and Sarah Ryle

THE City is preparing today for the third cut in interest rates since the Budget as the Government seeks to capitalise on the most buoyant retail conditions since the late 1980s.

The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, met Eddie George, the governor of the Bank of England, yesterday afternoon to discuss economic policy, and analysts are convinced base rates would be cut by 0.25 points to 6 per cent when the markets open today.

Britain's leading mortgage lenders have pledged that they will cut the cost of home loans if rates are shaved, helping to underpin the nascent recovery in the housing market that the Government sees as crucial to revive its electoral fortunes.

However, some analysts said last night that hopes of a string of rate cuts over the coming months had been dampened by yesterday's upbeat survey of consumer demand from the Confederation of British Industry.

The CBI's quarterly distributive trades survey showed shops and stores starting to push up prices in response to stronger spending. Retailers' sales growth projections are at their highest since December 1988.

Mr Clarke did little to dispel speculation about a rate cut on Radio 4 yesterday. He said he was "very nervous" about the economy, but he hinted that his confident predictions of 3 per cent growth this year were based, in part, on cheaper borrowing.

"Everything in the garden isn't all rosy out there. What we have is the prospect of being a very strong enterprise economy with more secure jobs, more prosperity, more opportunities for people if we keep on track."



Radio 1 blacklists 'unsuitable' latest single by The Beatles

Michael Ellison Arts Correspondent

STATUS Quo were one who indeed some would say they were one song. But yesterday the nation's biggest pop radio station turned positively iconoclastic and dumped The Beatles.

The most successful group in history are in good company on Radio 1's blacklist, along with pop legends such as Mr Blobby, Michael Barrymore and Sir Cliff Richard.

The station has decided that the once-lovable mop-tops' new single, Real Love, released last Monday, is every bit as good as Status Quo's Fun Fun Fun. That is to say, it is just not good enough to be heard by its listeners.

Geoff Baker, spokesman for the Beatles' Apple Records, said: "We are furious with Radio 1. Over the years the Beatles have made a fortune for the BBC. To say that the single doesn't appeal to Radio 1

could be a necessary step." But he added: "At present, the Government is considering the circumstances in which a referendum might or might not be appropriate."

"We will tell the House of our conclusions as soon as we have reached them."

With Dennis Street officials privately confirming that a decision will come in "weeks not months", that was enough to persuade many MPs on both sides of the Cabinet is edging painfully towards accepting the necessity of such a move, not least because Tony Blair might otherwise beat them to it.

Party strategists in both Labour and Tory camps would prefer to delay that moment because they know that while a decision on a single currency is at least two years away — and unlikely even then — outright opponents of British involvement will start campaigning immediately for a No.

That calculation is made more urgent by Sir James Goldsmith's threat to run candidates against MPs who do not back a referendum.

There are signs they are wavering in the interest of cabinet unity, leaving Mr Clarke appearing isolated.

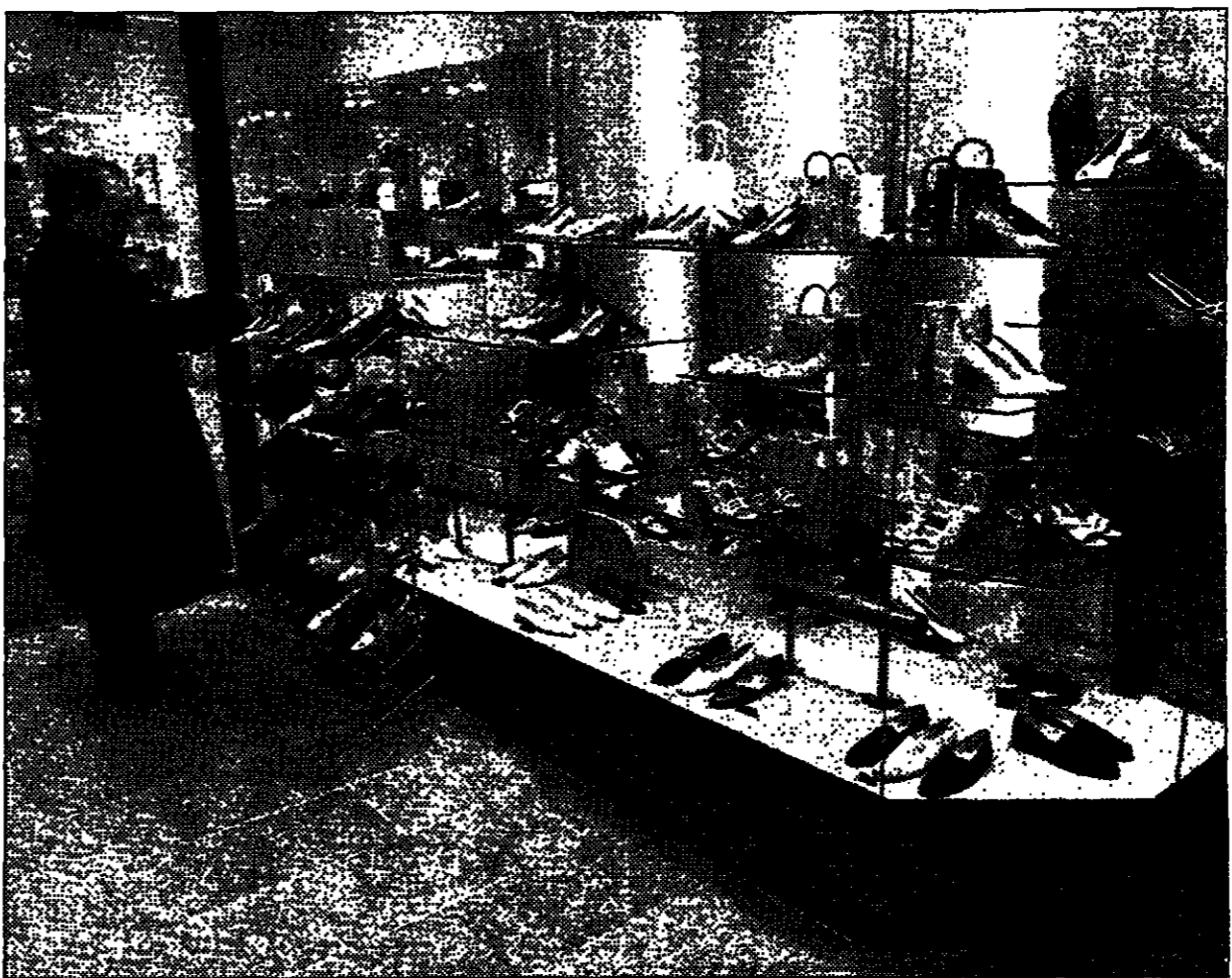
On Radio 4's Today programme yesterday — before the morning Cabinet — he said the time was not right to decide either on the currency or a referendum.

"I'm not a federalist. I believe in a union of nation states. 'Let's decide whether it's in this nation state's [interest] to go in or not when we see what the animal looks like — and when we see whether or not it's ever going to happen,'" he said.

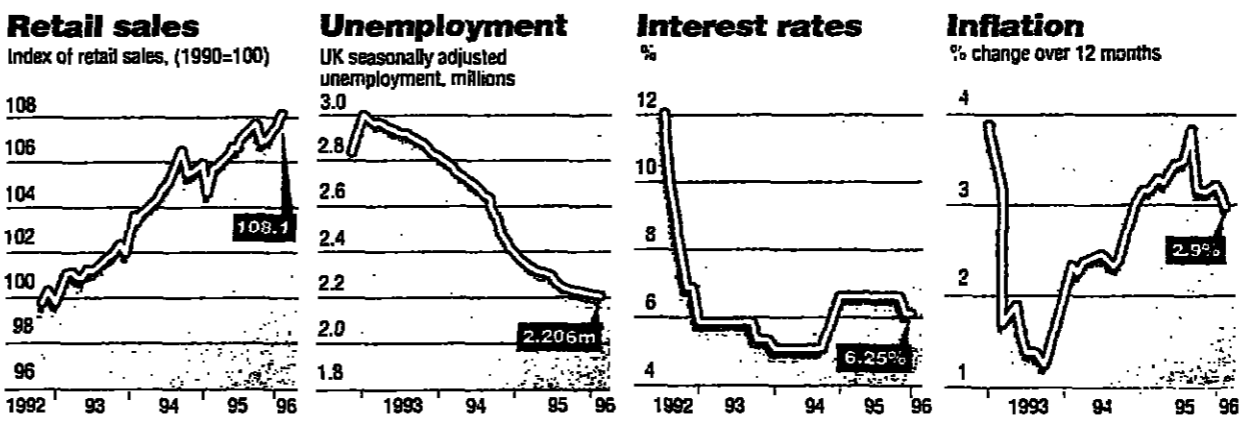
What seems to have triggered yesterday's cabinet decision to dangle the referendum option is the need to offer the Tory sceptics more than they are likely to get when the white paper, outlining Britain's position ahead of this month's inter-governmental conference (IGC), is published, probably on Tuesday.

At Labour insistence, it will be debated on Thursday week, March 31, rather than next Thursday, so that MPs have time to consider it properly. Officials stress that it will contain few surprises. Ironically, the single currency issue is not on the IGC agenda.

Norman Lamont fired a shot across his leader's bow at Question Time, when he asked which EU atrocity best justified the success of the commission's "Interfere in Britain Week" — the European Court of Justice's fishing verdict, interference over regional food names like Cheddar cheese, or commission investigators' "dawn raid" on the Football Association.



Walking back to happiness... The rise in shoe sales is seen as an indicator of a reviving economy



chance of a rapid rise in inflation. Mr Eperon said: "We are still talking about a highly competitive market place and these sales volumes are coming from a whole range of activities including extensive promotions."

Last month shops selling shoes, furniture and carpets reported the strongest increase in sales.

Patient turns gun on himself

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

STAFF at a mental health clinic watched in horror as a patient shot himself in the head after they failed to persuade him to lay down a gun.

Security is to be reviewed at the 24-hour emergency clinic at the Maudsley hospital, south London, after the fatal shooting in the early hours of Wednesday. One male and three female staff were on duty.

The man who died, who was aged 26 and not known to the clinic, apparently brandished the pistol at the staff. Their manager yesterday paid tribute to their courage and composure.

"They are all very experienced and well-trained, but you can never be prepared for somebody pulling a gun out," said Ben Thomas, director of clinical services.

The incident highlights the pressures on mental health services, particularly in inner-cities. Mental health workers report rising severity of illness among patients not in hospital.

rail sell-off & the judiciary

To command respect, a legal system must approximate justice. Yet our Courts have failed to apply to Ministers the standards and penalties that apply to Local Government.

Now the Shadow Lord Chancellor warns against "judicial supremacism." But the Judiciary is not obliged to defer to Ministers or Parliament when conduct or statutes are not consistent with natural justice. To argue otherwise is to endorse government by diktat and dogma, not law.

But the Head of the Judiciary is in the Cabinet and implicated in all Government decisions; judges may be seen to be compromised by that connection. Historically a blind eye has been turned to this constitutional crisis. This must not continue.

Until the Lord Chancellor leaves the Cabinet, the Judiciary's moral authority will be in dispute. Under such grave circumstances, all contentious Government actions, such as rail privatisation, should not proceed.

Suzon Forsey-Moore, Adviser
Action for Justice, PO Box 54, Cambridge CB5 8BB
Tel/Fax: 01223 327634 a4j.info@msunicon.org

YES, THE JUDICIARY MUST BE INDEPENDENT
I endorse Action for Justice's demand for an independent judiciary, a halt to all contentious Government activities including rail privatisation and a remedial judicial review process.

Signature.....
Name (Block capitals).....
Address.....
Post code.....

I'm helping this campaign with a donation of £.....
Cheque/PO made out to Action for Justice
ACTION for JUSTICE
PO Box 54, Cambridge CB5 8BB

ape hit return diseases

court legal

Europe hit by return of diseases

Tim Radford
Science Editor

THE World Health Organisation last night launched a bid to halt the alarming spread of once-forgotten diseases across Europe. Officials want \$20 million (about £13 million) and co-operation in a 10-point programme to contain cholera, diphtheria and sexually transmitted diseases, and to collaborate against invasion by terrifying infections from the East.

□ Since 1990, syphilis infections in eastern Europe have risen dramatically.
□ Cholera cases have risen ninefold, mostly in the Black Sea region, to 2,658 cases.
□ Diphtheria, once almost eliminated, has returned. Last year there were 52,000 cases and 1,500 deaths, but the rate of infection has grown so fast that experts have begun to trace themselves for up to 200,000 infections.

The alarm is far wider than the European Union: the "Europe" of the WHO stretches from Greenland to the Mediterranean, and across Siberia to the Russian Pacific, taking in 50 countries and 850 million people. It includes many nations once in the Soviet Union. Up to 1990, despite the cold war, Western and communist nations co-operated in disease control and surveillance. Measles was rare, cholera almost unknown and polio — already extinct in the Americas — was dwindling swiftly.

"What happened?" asked Jo Asvall, regional director of the WHO at a London conference yesterday. "There was a very happy event, which was the collapse of the communist system and the emergence of many new countries. Unfortunately at the very same time we had a fantastic economic collapse of those countries — a country like Moldova lost 60

per cent of its gross national product in three years, Kyrgyzstan 50 per cent in three years, and so on."

As economies crumbled, immunisation programmes collapsed, and fundamental services — water and sewage and disease surveillance — also faltered.

"In consequence we are seeing a re-emergence of diseases that we thought were safely behind us. Communicable diseases won't stop at border crossings," Dr Asvall said.

The most alarming has been diphtheria. More than 80 per cent of all the world's infections had occurred in the former eastern bloc last year. Half of all the cases in Ukraine were among adults, which suggested that earlier immunisation had only been partial. "Imported" infections had already turned up in Finland, Norway, Mongolia, Poland and Germany.

The WHO also wants funds to redouble efforts to eliminate polio worldwide. Around 60 million children in 18 countries in the eastern Mediterranean and the Caucasus region were immunised in 1995. The WHO had planned to wipe out the virus in Europe, but infections in Chechnya rose to 130 during the war.

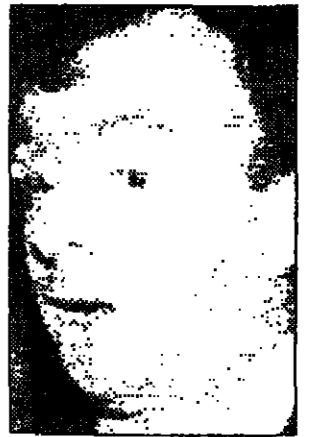
All this was against a sharp rise in sexually transmitted diseases in eastern Europe, with an associated risk of the spread of AIDS. There was increased need for surveillance against Hantavirus from the Americas, and dramatic fevers such as Ebola from Africa. Tuberculosis was on the increase worldwide: in the next decade there would be 90 million infections.

"There will be 90 million cases because tuberculosis does not always develop in infected people. Thirty million people will die of tuberculosis in the next 10 years — more than from AIDS, malaria and tropical diseases together."

Labour leader's wife faces accusations of leftwing influence from Tory newspapers



A tale of two Tonys... Tony Benn, left, and Tony Booth, second right, on the same election platform with Cherie Blair in Thanet North in 1983.



Peter Hitchens... Likely to strike fear in Labour's heart

'Bias is my trade'

THE wit and wisdom of Peter Hitchens: "Biased reporting is my trade these days... The trouble is that, while I am quite open about what I do... some others are not. I refer, of course, to the BBC..." — 1995

□ "In this age of smoking bans and seatbelts, how about some safety legislation to keep young men and women from entering politics until they have done a real job. Such a law would have saved Neil Kinnock with his present fate." — 1993

□ "I looked across the table and saw the mocking face of Old Death in the same room as me. Dead eyes, dead face, dead skin, dead hair, hands shaped for carrying coffins." — on Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams, 1994

□ "She has abandoned the suburban sadism which she learned from Ian Brady all those years ago, only to replace it with the jargon of self-justification." — on Mrs Hitchens's letter to the Guardian, 1995

□ "As one of the British correspondents who covered the execution in Georgia last year of Nicholas Ingram (and the only one to witness it), I experienced a certain amount of disdain from one or two of my colleagues, because I felt Mr Ingram's punishment was both merited and just. This lofty scorn is the normal response of the conformist elite class which now dominates most areas of British public life." — 1996

Express puts Cherie Blair in dock

Tabloid digs for 'incriminating' details of 1983 election campaign

Patrick Wintour
and Andrew Guff

FRESH signs that the rightwing press intends to target Cherie Blair, wife of the Labour leader, in the run-up to the general election campaign yesterday when the Daily Express placed local newspaper adverts asking for details of her Thanet North election campaign in 1983.

Conservative Central Office, having witnessed the damage Hillary Clinton has done to the popularity of Bill Clinton, intend to portray Mrs Blair, formerly Cherie Booth, as an unconstructed leftwinger who betrays the real nature of the Labour Party.

The advert, placed in the Thanet Times, implies that Daily Express journalist Peter Hitchens is innocently seeking souvenirs. It reads: "Do you remember 1983? The Daily Express is looking for mementoes of Cherie Booth's parliamentary campaign in early 1983. We would like to see leaflets and election addresses, and would also like to hear about speeches that Lord Irvine of Lairg gave and Ramsgate. If you can help, please contact Peter Hitchens in confidence." The advert then gives a free telephone number.

Mr Hitchens has already published one article about Mrs Blair's 1983 general elec-

tion campaign, largely based around a photograph of her sitting on an election platform accompanied by her father Tony Booth, the actor, and Tony Benn, who had recently been defeated in his campaign to win the deputy leadership.

The story carried the headline: "Two Tonys who taught Cherie about Socialism... and neither was her husband."

The local Labour Party has been reluctant to give Mr Hitchens a copy of Mrs Blair's manifesto, which is also being sought by the Daily Star.

Mr Blair has already found his 1982 Beaconsfield byelection manifesto repeatedly wheeled out against him by Conservative Central Office. The manifesto called for British withdrawal from the European Union and removal of cruise missiles, unilaterally if necessary. It is unlikely that Mrs Blair's 1983 manifesto against Roger Gale, the sitting Tory MP, was radically different.

Mr Hitchens, however, has a reputation likely to strike fear into the hearts of Labour's spin doctors.

The former member of the Socialist Workers' Party was hauled back from his job as Moscow correspondent during the last election to snap at the heels of Neil Kinnock. He was instrumental in the breaking of the "Jennie's Eat" story which severely damaged Labour's campaign.

In the past year Mrs Blair, a barrister, has been targeted by the Daily Mail and the Express, with reporters trailing her on obscure court cases around the country.

Last month the Daily Mail — dubbing her "cabinet-maker Cherie" — suggested she was "behaving like Hillary Clinton as an unelected power behind the throne". Her offence, in the eyes of the paper, had been to let slip one of the Labour's worst-kept secrets that Lord Irvine of Lairg will become Lord Chancellor if the party wins power.

The same book launch party produced another Mail headline: "Cherie pledges to boost gay rights". Photographs of Mrs Blair and Mrs Clinton accompanied the story as the paper suggested there were "echoes of Hillary Clinton in Mrs Blair's vision of power".

DO YOU REMEMBER 1983?

The Daily Express is looking for mementoes of Cherie Booth's parliamentary campaign in early 1983. We would like to see leaflets and election addresses, and would also like to hear about speeches she made in Margate and Ramsgate.

If you can help, please contact Peter Hitchens, in confidence, on 0800 376 8000, ext. 7467

Thanks for the memory: the Express ad in the Thanet Times

Cross-border contagion

Diphtheria
Huge epidemics in newly-independent states of former USSR. Europe accounts for 80% of reported cases worldwide, with 1,500 deaths last year. "Imported" infections turned up in Finland, Norway, Mongolia, Germany and Poland.

Cholera
Registered cases increased nine-fold in Europe between 1993 and 1994. 2,658 cases in Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Romania, Russia.

Malaria
Number of cases in Europe grown from 20,000 in 1992 to more than 100,000 in 1995, mostly in Turkey, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan.

Tuberculosis
40% - 50% of new cases of TB in western European countries occur in migrant populations. Worldwide one person is infected with TB every second, with 30 million expected to die in next 10 years.

Syphilis
Sharp increase in former USSR — up to 10 times higher than 10-20 years ago. Prostitutes from eastern Europe are moving west, spreading risk of sexually transmitted diseases.

US court legalises euthanasia

Controversial ruling set to trigger a bitter political and ethical row

Martin Walker
in Washington

EUTHANASIA is now legal and protected by the United States constitution, a federal appeals court has ruled by a margin of eight to three, in a historic judgment which overturned a state's attempt to outlaw doctor-assisted suicide. In over 200 years of US law, a constitutionally protected right to medical aid to kill oneself has never been asserted by a high court. The stage is now set for a tumultuous national debate, with profound international implications, if euthanasia becomes commonplace in the US.

peals bench, sitting in San Francisco.

"A mentally competent, terminally ill adult, having lived nearly the full measure of his life, has a strong liberty interest in choosing a dignified and humane death."

The decision by the 9th circuit federal appeals court was condemned yesterday by the American Medical Association, the Catholic Church, and the anti-abortion lobby, who claimed the ruling crossed "the essential line between letting a person die and deliberately destroying life."

But it was greeted with a cry of "Hallelujah" by AIDS activists, who had filed an *amicus curiae* brief in the case. "For those facing death with AIDS, court recognition of their private right to die with dignity will give them a lot of peace," said Kelly Scott, of the AIDS Foundation in Seattle, where the case was heard.

The ruling was then cited in a separate court yesterday in Michigan as requiring that all charges be dismissed against Dr Jack Kevorkian, undergoing his third trial for assisting at a suicide.

The legal decision, which will stand unless overturned by the Supreme Court, instantly rendered void the laws passed in the states of Washington and California making it a criminal offence for a doctor or family member or friend to assist at a suicide.

Judge Reinhardt's ruling angered the anti-abortion movement by comparing the decision to terminate one's life to the decision to have an abortion.

He also based his ruling on the 14th amendment of the US constitution. This was also the basis for the assumed "right to privacy" which justified the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe versus Wade* decision that there was an inherent constitutional right to have an abortion.

The 14th amendment says "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall

abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens", without spelling out what those privileges might be.

Judge Beizer, speaking for the minority of three judges on the appeals panel who dissented from the ruling, warned that reliance on the amendment was unsound, and would lead to greater abuse.

"If physician-assisted suicide is made a constitutional right, voluntary euthanasia for weaker patients, unable to self-terminate, will soon follow," he wrote, in an opinion foreshadowing the ethical debate the legal decision is expected to unleash.

In emotional testimony before the appeals court, family members who supported euthanasia told of being forced by the now overturned law to leave the room when a spouse committed suicide. A daughter whose father had terminal lung cancer, spoke of waiting downstairs for the sound of the gun as he shot himself — "a brutal and awful experience for my children and me".

Before you get excited about a cheap home insurance quote, check it's not a case of "R.M.Q."

R.M.Q. stands for Reducing to Match Quote. This is when an insurer drops their price in order to match another company's price. And although you appear to be paying less, you just end up with less cover. Midland shuns this practice. It only results in customers receiving inadequate insurance. Instead we concentrate on making sure that your policy fits your individual needs. Phone Midland for a quote now on 0800 277 377.

0800 277 377
DIRECT



Member HSBC Group

Lines are open 8am - 8pm Monday to Friday and 10am - 2pm Saturdays. Calls may be recorded. The policy document gives full details of the cover. A copy of which is available on request.

Review cover story

sell-off & judiciary

JUSTICE

4 BRITAIN

The Guardian Friday March 8 1996

Tests for would-be clergy will include arranging shapes in sequence and completing questionnaires to check behaviour and motivation

Church tries to end 'academic bias'



Clerics at a Lambeth conference. Recruitment of priests is to depend more on cognitive tests, with less bias towards Oxbridge PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Madeline Bunting
Religious Affairs Editor

THE Church of England has called in personnel consultants to devise psychological tests for candidates for the priesthood to counterbalance a recruitment bias towards the more articulate and academic.

Applicants will also be subjected to cognitive tests such as playing with shapes, arranging them in sequence and spotting the odd one out, to test their powers of deductive reasoning. Other questionnaires are being drawn up by psychometric consultants to draw out behavioural patterns and test the motivation of prospective priests.

The tests are part of an overhaul of clergy selection which has been given fresh impetus by the Nine O'Clock Service scandal last August when it was discovered that Chris Brain had been "fast-tracked" through his ordination while he was sexually molesting women in his congregation.

The testing, drawn up by Recruitment and Assessment Services, is advocated as a means to correct the "Oxbridge factor" whereby formal academic qualifications have undue weight in the process. The Church is still dominated by university graduates, with a disproportionate number from Oxbridge. The recent survey of General Synod showed that more than 70 per cent of bishops were Oxbridge graduates and nearly 70 per cent of clergy in synod are university-educated.

"The cognitive tests will show more accurately the capacity for logical thought of people without formal academic expertise. Perhaps someone who has left school at 16 could still have the capacity to study theology but it would be masked by a diffidence and lack of confidence," said Christopher Cunliffe, vocations officer for the Advisory Board of Ministry (ABM), the training arm of the Church.

The shift in policy, reported in today's Church Times, will fuel criticism from tradition-

alists that clergy are going further down the road of becoming a type of counsellor rather than a teacher of doctrinal truth, and that emotional skills are being given greater weight than intellectual skills.

The tests being tried out are expected to be introduced in January at the three day selection conferences. A spokesman for the ABM emphasised that the techniques would not replace the existing emphasis on interviews, and that selection took place within the context of prayer and worship.

Saville & Holdsworth, one of the United Kingdom's foremost psychometric consultants, is advising the Church on interview techniques and is drafting a "personal inventory" in which candidates are asked a series of open-ended questions which establish an appraisal of the personality.

Roy Davis, communications manager of Saville & Holdsworth, said the techniques provided "objective, scientific data" to help employers reach a decision.

News in brief

'Council coppers' could help police

LOCAL authority police forces, dressed in uniforms similar to those of regular officers, could act as "eyes and ears" for the full-time service, an independent report has found. Local authorities should also be free to experiment with private security patrols to augment the work of the police, the study suggests. The inquiry on the role and responsibilities of the police, set up by the Police Foundation and the Policy Studies Institute, suggests that the police will have to make wide-ranging changes because of the high levels of crime, the constraints on public expenditure and an increasingly competitive private security industry. — Duncan Campbell

Hi-De-Hi star Cadell dies



SIMON CADELL, left star of the BBC TV comedy Hi-De-Hi, died yesterday of cancer. He had found he had lymph cancer as he recovered from a heart attack three years ago. Cadell, aged 45, leaves a widow, Becky, and two sons, Patrick, aged 10, and Alec, seven. Despite his illness he appeared in West End productions and won the Olivier Award for his last role in Travels with My Aunt. He played the upper-crust entertainment manager, Jeffrey Fairbrother, at Moplin holiday camp in Hi-De-Hi, and his TV career also included two series of Enemy at the Door for LWT, three of Life without George, and the comedy Blott on the Landscape. Obituary, page 10

Defector's substitute chosen

CONSERVATIVES in West Devon and Torridge have chosen Tyneside businessman Ian Liddell-Grainger, aged 38, to fight the seat for them at the next election following the defection of their MP, Emma Nicholson, to the Liberal Democrats. The Territorial Army major, married with three children, said he would move to the constituency. — Geoffrey Gibbs

More holidays for Britons

BRITONS are taking more holidays, but spend most of their leisure money abroad, says a report by market analysts Mintel. It reveals the British take more than 86 million holidays a year — an average of more than three per household — compared with 74 million in 1990. Even excluding fares to foreign destinations, the British spend more than £25 billion a year on holidays. But only about 40 per cent of that money is spent in the UK, with the rest going abroad.

Sculptor's daughter loses

SCULPTOR Henry Moore's daughter, Mary, yesterday lost the latest round in her battle to gain control of millions of pounds worth of his work. Mary Danowski, aged 49, had appealed against a 1993 High Court ruling relating to the ownership of her father's art work between 1977 and 1983, when he died aged 88. She and her mother helped him set up the charitable Henry Moore Foundation in 1976 to safeguard and promote his artistic legacy. The Appeal Court upheld the 1993 judgment ruling that the foundation owned the Moore work in dispute.

CAR INSURANCE

looking for the lowest premium?

PHONE FREE 0500 333 600

Exclusive Windsor Ball Pen FREE with every quote

TO CLAIM YOUR FREE PEN SIMPLY QUOTE REF 9571

LINES ARE OPEN 8am-8pm WEEKDAYS, 8am-2pm SATURDAYS.



1 WITH OUR NEW GLOBAL SYSTEM, WE CAN REACH OUR PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD. EVEN IN LITTLE CAYMAN.

I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD ANYBODY IN LITTLE CAYMAN.

The WORLD of OLIVER & CLAIRE

NO. 7

2 SURE WE HAVE OLIVER. IT'S GOT GREAT BEACHES AND FANTASTIC TAX LAWS.

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE WE GOT OUT THERE?

3 AT THE MINUTE, JUST ONE. THE COMPANY FOUNDER LIVES THERE.

4

COUGH! COUGH!

5

COULD WE CONTACT HIM RIGHT NOW?

PROBABLY BETTER NOT. HE SAYS HE'S GONNA BE "FLAT OUT" FOR THE NEXT 6 WEEKS.

MERCURY CAN SHOW YOU HOW YOU CAN SEND DATA AROUND THE WORLD—SEAMLESSLY, INSTANTLY.

MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS

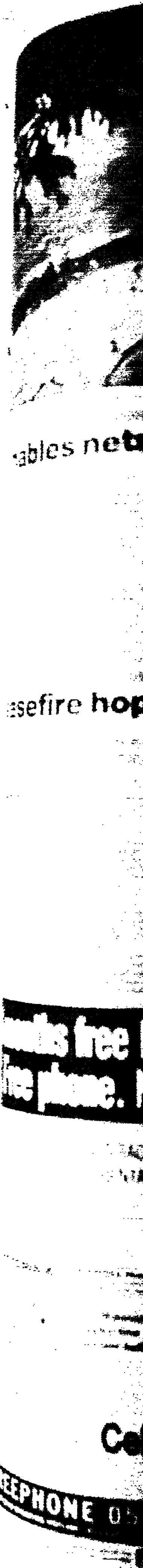
When mankind meets machine, Mercury can help.

FreeCall 0500 500 400

Mercury Communications Limited, New Mercury House, 26 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4HQ.

<http://www.mercury.co.uk>

A MEMBER OF THE CABLE & WIRELESS GROUP





I am a teapot... A paper mache model is carried to a naive art display at the Towner Art Gallery and Museum, Eastbourne, which runs from March 9 to April 21 PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

Railtrack may face death case

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

RAILTRACK may face prosecution over the death of a train driver after being told yesterday to improve safety by the Health and Safety Executive.

Lawyers are studying a file prepared by the British Transport Police after the driver, Alan Griffiths, was hit by a train at Longsight, Manchester, last year as he spoke on a trackside telephone. The Crown Prosecution Service is considering whether there is sufficient evidence of negligence to support a charge of corporate manslaughter.

Railtrack has been reviewing its policy towards trackside phones after a driver was seriously injured when he was struck by a train at Hemel Hempstead in 1993. More drivers are getting mobile phones.

Mr Griffiths died in Manchester Royal Infirmary after being hit by an inter city train travelling at 60 mph. Railtrack refused to comment about the incident last night.

Clare Short, shadow transport secretary, said: "This is an appalling tragedy, made worse by the fact that it need never have happened. I will be writing to the Government about this case, and to raise the issue of poor safety standards in Railtrack overall."

Ms Short said that the HSE's recommendations on general safety standards also raised doubts about whether Railtrack should be responsible for the safety regulation

and monitoring of itself and its contractors.

The preparation for privatisation and break up of the rail network had led to a serious reduction in standards.

In its report, highlighting Railtrack's methods of using outside contractors, the HSE found "many weaknesses" in the way Railtrack maintained safety.

The report says that the HSE cannot be confident that the risks of accidents will not increase unless Railtrack takes urgent steps.

Inspectors discovered that Railtrack placed considerable reliance on contractors checking their work and did not provide day to day supervision.

Vic Coleman, the HSE's deputy chief inspecting officer of railways, said: "There is no room for complacency. Railtrack must take urgent steps to strengthen its systems and the way they are applied."

"We recognise that shortcomings in formal management systems do not necessarily lead directly to accidents, but they can cut away at safety margins and lead to an increase in risk of harm."

"It must take swift action to deal with these deficiencies."

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union, said: "In the light of this critical report, no responsible government can allow Railtrack to be floated on the Stock Exchange and this move must be halted. The HSE has an obligation to prosecute Railtrack."

Venables nets £50,000 from High Court fixture

Owen Bowcott
and Martin Thorpe

TERRY Venables, dedicated litigant and temporary England soccer coach, was yesterday claiming victory after his latest High Court fixture against a former business partner.

Mr Venables emerged from the nine day legal match with £50,000 damages awarded over a failed pub venture. In a statement last night, he said: "I am delighted with my victory. After three years of legal battles and being castigated by sections of the media the fight to clear my name is bearing fruit. This result is a

personal and financial vindication of me."

But the hearing was not an outright win. His claim for £144,359 was rejected and he received less than his estimated £125,000 costs. His former business partner, Paul Kirby, was ordered to pay £36,089 and £12,973 in interest plus £100,000 of Mr Venables's costs.

Mr Kirby, an FA councillor, claimed even though Mr Venables had won part of the action, the costs ruling could mean him being out of pocket.

In the judgment, Mr Justice Carnwath said that none of the money left unaccounted for in the collapsed firm of Transatlantic Inns was due to

any failure on the part of Mr Venables. Mr Kirby was an "unreliable witness", he said, with a "confused and over-optimistic" view of events.

Mr Venables was trying to reclaim the £144,359 he paid to NatWest bank to clear the company's debts. He said that under an indemnity agreement he was entitled to be reimbursed by Mr Kirby in full or, alternatively, receive one quarter - £36,089 - on the basis that he was a co-guarantor with the partners in the venture.

Mr Kirby and Mr Venables were shareholders, with Colin Wright and David Brown, in Transatlantic, which was compulsorily

wound up on February 3, 1994. The group at one time controlled four pubs - the Cock and Magpie in Epping, Essex; the Royal Oak in Marlow, Buckinghamshire; the Granby Tavern in Reading, Berkshire; and Macey's in Mayfair, London.

Mr Venables, who leaves his job as England soccer coach in early July after the European Championships to defend his reputation in the courts, is set for a string of witness box appearances.

In June he faces his former solicitor, Bryan Fugler, who is claiming £300,000 in unpaid fees. Mr Venables is countering for negligence. The following month he will appear before a civil hearing brought by the Department of Trade and Industry which may ban him from acting as a company director.

A libel action over Mr Venables's autobiography brought by the Tottenham chairman, Alan Sugar, and due to be heard in October, promises the most revelations about the business relationship between the two men.

Mr Venables, the former Tottenham chief executive, also has libel actions pending against the BBC regarding two Panorama programmes, and the Daily Mirror. No date has been set for the cases.

Nor has a date been set to hear Venables's claim for wrongful dismissal from Tottenham in the summer of 1993. It is a daunting fixture list for any player.

Ceasefire hopes fade

IRA's restated position takes it further away from talks table

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

PROSPECTS of the IRA restoring its ceasefire receded further yesterday when it placed itself at odds with London, Dublin and every political party in Ireland except Sinn Fein by describing a number of steps to all-party talks as unacceptable preconditions.

In a bleak summary of the IRA's position, a spokesman told the republican movement's newspaper, An Phoblacht, in an interview published in full yesterday, that there was not "the necessary dynamic to move us all away from conflict".

Senior Sinn Fein sources said they too believed that the

recommendations, attempts to impose decommissioning, attempts to impose acceptance of the so-called principle of "majority consent" or "Unionist veto"...

He repeated that there would be no arms decommissioning before a final settlement. The British and Irish governments in their communiqué last week agreed that the weapons issue would be the first item on the June 10 talks agenda.

Reaction north and south of the border was more pessimistic than even a few days ago. Michael Ancram, Northern Ireland Minister, said the IRA comments were a slap in the face for ordinary people. Bertie Ahern, leader of the Irish opposition Fianna Fail, warned that time was running out for peace. There were other republican groups who might be preparing to return to conflict.

6 months free line rental. Free phone. No catch.

- FREE MOTOROLA MICRO-TAC DUO
- FREE 6 MONTHS LINE RENTAL
- FREE CONNECTION TO VODAFONE LOWCALL
- FREE DELIVERY

MOTOROLA

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

MODEL MICRO-TAC DUO.

The pocket phone with the unique Motorola Flip.

- ◆ 60 mins talk-time ◆ 8 hrs standby-time
- ◆ Complete with ultra-slim battery and built-in charger
- ◆ Lightweight approx 245g

Monthly Rental	£15 (£12.77 + VAT)
Peak Rate Calls UK Wide	50p per min (42.5p + VAT)
Off Peak Calls	20p per min (17p + VAT)

Peak times 8.00-19.00 Mon to Fri. Mandatory itemised billings charged at £1.77 inc. VAT per month. Line rental (debited monthly in advance) and airtime charges will be debited to your nominated credit charge or Delta card. Calls charged in units of 30 seconds after the first minute.

Cellphones direct

FREEPHONE 0500 000 888

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 9PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT READY WHEN YOU CALL AND QUOTE REF 3214. CREDIT CARDS ARE AVAILABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCHES.
 *See us for full details and a standard business contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd. 185 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames, TW9 4LN. All prices include VAT and delivery. Terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright. Registered No. 2990222

UP TO **45% OFF** **KITCHEN CABINETS** **AN INTEGRATED DISHWASHER FOR ONLY £199.99**

WHEN YOU BUY 3 OR MORE

CHOOSE FROM 47 SUPERB KITCHEN STYLES

Schreiber BEAULIEU Solid pine door and drawer fronts with Victorian style flat centre paneling, and solid pine handles.

COMPLETE 8 CABINET KITCHEN* **8 RIGID CABINETS ONLY**

INCLUDING AN INTEGRATED DISHWASHER & GREAT CABINETS, OVEN, HOOD AND EXTRACTOR, SINK, TAPS AND WORKTOPS

FOR ONLY **£1362.79** OR **£814.92**

*When you spend £500 on any Hygiene or Schreiber kitchen Current In-Store Price £259.99 (APRIL 1996)

OR £200 OFF ANY FULL SIZE DISHWASHER FROM OUR RANGE

LOW COST FIT ON ALL KITCHENS

We will be happy to visit your home at a time that's mutually convenient to complete a full Pre-Fit survey of your kitchen when you use our installation service.

KITCHEN CABINETS GUARANTEED 20% LESS THAN ANY OTHER NATIONAL RETAILER

See in-store for full details

MFI

SHOPPING HOURS: Mon 10-6, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-6, Fri 10-9, Sat 9-5, Sun 11-5, except Southampton 10-4 Northern Ireland: Mon 10-5, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-9, Thurs 10-9, Fri 10-9, Sat 9-6, Sun 12-5. PHONE-free pages 0500 192 192 FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE. **More Furniture Ideas**

Also available at **MFI home works**

FOR EXAMPLE THE ABOVE COMPLETE KITCHEN COMPRISES: 8 CABINETS: 1000mm Hi-Line Base Unit x 3, 1000mm Full Height Wall Unit x 2, 600mm Base Unit, Oven, Raising Unit, 600mm Hob Unit, 600mm x 3 Drawer Base Unit, ACCESSORIES: Stainless Steel Lay-on Sink, SINK, Waste and Overflow, Plug Tap (TOP 110), Worktop 2000 x 600 x 16mm, 1 x 1 x 1 APPLIANCE: OVEN, Extractor, Hood, Mosaic or White (APM 211023), Gas, Hob, Mosaic or White (APM 111020), Extractor, Mosaic or White (APM 211021), Integrated Dishwasher (APR 621420).

PRICE INFORMATION: From prices are for rigid factory built cabinets of listed above and do not include appliances, accessories, etc. Items subject to availability.

6 WORLD NEWS

Brussels threatens world trade court action to block sanctions on companies trading with Havana

US heads for clash on Cuba

Martin Walker in Washington and John Palmer in Brussels

THE controversial bill designed to force the rest of the world to join the United States economic blockade of Cuba...

The EU, Canada, Russia, Mexico, Brazil and the Caribbean group of Caribbean countries claim the bill rides roughshod over bilateral and international treaties which the US has signed.

It lets the US refuse visas to British employees of such a company (and their relatives) and bars any US bank or stock exchange from doing business with that British company.

share the same goal, establishing democracy in Cuba, but we differ about the best means to achieve that.

tion, newly established as the world's final court of arbitration and judgement under the Uruguay Round of the Gatt treaty, has political implications in the US in a presidential election year...

Leader comment, page 8

'This extension of American jurisdiction has no basis in international law'

having been passed 74-22 in the Senate and 336-96 in the House of Representatives, and illustrates the chasm that separates the US from the rest of the planet on the issue of Cuba.

The EU has warned the Clinton administration that it plans to take action under the WTO, in a lawsuit which would then be joined by other interested parties.

News in brief

US soldiers to serve 7 years for raping girl

THREE US servicemen began prison sentences of up to seven years yesterday for the rape of a 13-year-old primary schoolgirl on the island of Okinawa last September.

Liberian warlord seizes crew

THREE foreign helicopter crewmen — an American, a German and a Kenyan — were seized in Liberia yesterday by the militia of a warlord under siege by African peacekeepers in Monrovia.

Rioters on rampage in prisons

MUTINIOUS inmates remained in control of five Greek prisons yesterday, demanding improved conditions.

Decision on Papon delayed

A DECISION on whether the former Vichy civil servant Maurice Papon, aged 85, should be sent for an assize court trial for two world war crimes against humanity will probably be delayed until June.

Pressure renewed on Turkish author

TURKEY'S best-known author, Yasar Kemal, left, was given a 20-month suspended jail sentence by an Istanbul court yesterday for "spreading separatist propaganda".

The cases of four former Kurdish MPs facing separatism charges were adjourned. — Chris Nuttall, Ankara.

Rebels humiliate Moscow's men

James Meek in Moscow

RUSSIA'S security forces and their supreme commander, President Boris Yeltsin, suffered another humiliation yesterday at the hands of Chechen separatist fighters who came close to capturing the capital, Grozny.

Earlier, while officials in Grozny reported that every federal checkpoint in the city was surrounded by the attackers, and some were running out of ammunition, an army spokesman at regional headquarters in Rostov-on-Don — 400 miles away — languidly dismissed the idea of a mass retreat.



Fog of war... Smoke from artillery fire billows around houses as Russian troops and rebels clash in Grozny. The rebels were said to control a third of the city last night

ing, except to claim the city had been cleared of rebels. He said the plans would involve selective state financing of areas of Chechnya according to how strongly they supported Moscow, together with talks with local communities.

clear that military action against the rebels would continue. He signed an "anti-terrorism" decree giving unspecified powers to the security forces.

sieged by Russian troops who claim there is a large detachment of armed rebels inside. On Wednesday the Red Cross and the International Organisation for Migration were refused permission by the Russians to evacuate civilians from the town.

Pet Russians, free to good homes

Andrew Harding in Komsomolskaya on Chechnia's top status symbol

BY CHECHEN standards, Arbi Islamov lives well. He has a new Mercedes, a red brick house in the countryside with its own sauna and mosque, a couple of Kalashnikovs, two rocket-propelled grenade launchers, and of course, his own Russian prisoners of war.

'We're better fighters than them. And we're better bandits too'

his wife and his younger sister, Zeinab, were feeding the steady stream of fighters and businessmen who drop in to pay their respects and discuss news with the village's richest family.

the outskirts of the village, situated on the northern slopes of the Caucasus mountains about 20 miles from the Chechen capital Grozny, and Oleg seemed to take particular delight in analysing the effects of the war on his mother and her sons.

World chess championship is switched to Baghdad

Leonard Barden and Victor Keegan

THE International Chess Federation (Fide) dropped a political timebomb yesterday by switching the next world championship from Montreal to Baghdad.

curity Council in New York reaffirmed economic sanctions against Iraq on the grounds that Baghdad had not made sufficient progress in meeting its demands.

Fitting end for tempestuous Duras

Alex Duval Smith sees the author laid to rest among the shades of St Germain

LITERARY scholars believe Marguerite Duras's tempestuous personality was rooted in her childhood, spent at the mercy of the Indo-Chinese monsoon. So it was fitting, yesterday, that a Parisian hailstorm hammered her coffin into the ground at Montparnasse cemetery.

for vanity's sake. It is food to the wind. The feeling was that anyone who could write such an effective "ashes to ashes" was ready for death, rather as had been President Francois Mitterrand, whom Duras admired after meeting him in the Resistance in 1943.

as: "The impossible is the history of the future." As Duras's pale wood coffin, with its brass plaque but no cross, was laid in a hearse for a final journey to the cemetery, Sophie Borby, a 31-year-old student in the crowd, said: "This church was here 1,000 years ago and in 1,000 years' time, people will mark the anniversary of Duras's death. It is just an honour to have lived in the same century as Marguerite Duras."

GREENPEACE. Isn't the future of our world worth 66p a day? 0800-374428

OJ attorney jailed for contempt. F. LEE BAILEY, the gravel-voiced eminence of the O.J. Simpson legal team, made his name keeping a string of famous clients out of jail.

Any serious debate today concerning politics, philosophy, aesthetics, and history must eventually come to rest on the split-up between Charles and Di. Bel Littlejohn

The US and its European allies remain at odds on how to react to alleged Iranian support for terrorism after the recent bombings in Israel. As Arafat cracks down on Hamas, the foreign ministry in Tehran is desperately attempting to distance itself from the blasts



Hair-raising problems... President Yasser Arafat adjusts his keffiyeh head-dress before the inaugural session of the first Palestinian legislative council in Gaza City yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENT REBOURS

Britain protests to Iran

Richard Merton-Taylor, and Kathy Evans in Tehran

BRITAIN formally protested to Iran last night about its support for Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel, a move apparently prompted by United States pressure on its European allies to take tougher action against Tehran. But it is clear that the US and the European Union remain divided on how to respond to Iran's latest outbursts against Israel, and EU members differ on how to pursue contacts with Tehran.

Though the ministers are likely to agree to some kind of joint EU approach to Tehran, this will not disguise differences between them. Germany, Italy and Greece favour closer ties with Iran than Britain and France. The latter place more emphasis on the "critical" dialogue, the former on "dialogue". British sources said yesterday.

In Tehran, Iranian foreign ministry officials summoned Western ambassadors yesterday to distance the government from statements carried on its official news agency, Iran, supporting the bomb attacks in Israel.

Iran's relations with European countries are becoming more important to Tehran as it faces a growing American boycott, which threatens not only US oil investment in Iran but participation by European companies as well.

Arafat seeks terror summit

Derek Brown in Gaza City

THE Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, yesterday called for an international summit to tackle Middle East political violence. He told the inaugural session of the Palestinian legislative council, the world's newest parliament, "We will not let violence and terrorism stop the peace process."

He urged "all parties in the world" to discuss, at the highest level, "methods of confronting terrorism as a regional and international phenomenon". President Arafat, in some mood, did not please all the 88 newly elected council members with his strident denunciation of militant factions. Although he did not name the main Islamist group, Hamas, he made it clear that the hunt

for its leaders and activists would be carried on by Palestinian as well as Israeli forces. Hamas has claimed responsibility for four suicide bombings which killed more than 60 people in eight days. Since the outbreak, Israel has closed its borders to Palestinians and imposed curfews in much of the West Bank.

At least 500 Hamas and other Islamist suspects are now in Palestinian prisons, and hundreds more have been picked up by Israeli forces. The searches have deeply angered many Palestinian leaders, who accuse Israel of stoking up more trouble by inflicting severe hardship on two million people, all but a fraction of whom are bitterly opposed to the Islamist violence.

Old hand tightens its grip on power



Other worlds

David Beresford

ALTHOUGH there is no indication that he intends staying in office beyond his scheduled retirement date in 1999, Nelson Mandela does seem to be developing in his advancing years a taste for power which could prove a disservice to the society he has helped to create. At the end of last year, the received wisdom in political circles here was that President Mandela would begin to take things easier in 1996, not only for his health's sake but also to smooth the way for the succession of his political heir, Thabo Mbeki.

Mandela's rage is reported to have reduced one MP to tears

When questions began to be raised about the waste of taxpayers' money, the ministry claimed that the funding had come from the European Union. The EU flatly denied any responsibility.

The parliamentary health committee then decided to call the African National Congress health minister, Nkosazana Zuma, to account. There is some dispute about precisely what happened, but the scheduled hearing failed to materialise, apparently after Mr Mandela had lectured ANC members of the committee on their responsibilities to the party. The hearing was finally held last week, but was inconclusive, the ANC majority exhibiting a defensiveness which smacked of schoolchildren fearful of being overheard by an invisible but all-seeing master.

Taiwan derides China's 'dumb' missile-rattling

Andrew Higgins in Taipei

ON THE eve of Chinese missile tests within sight of its coast, the nearest of the People's Liberation Army has come since 1949. Taiwan taunted Beijing yesterday with firing "empty and hollow" rockets as Washington warned of "grave consequences" if any missiles go astray.



Show of force... Taiwanese soldiers on exercises this week on the fortress island of Quemoy near the Chinese mainland. It was a flashpoint in 1958

Taiwan's United Daily News quoted Chinese sources as saying Beijing would consider any attempt to intercept them as an act of war. It is the most volatile crisis between the two civil-war enemies since Mao Zedong shelled outlying Taiwanese islands in 1958. He backed down after US warships went in.

But it is feared that China's leaders, gripped by increasingly belligerent nationalism as they await the death of Deng Xiaoping, may not be able this time to halt the logic of steady escalation. China yesterday made its clearest admission of the political motives for the "ordinary exercises". Shen Guofang, the foreign ministry spokesman, said: "The exercises will be useful not only to safeguard China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, but also to stamp out efforts to create two Chinas or one China, one Taiwan."

Paramilitary 'cleaners' call the shots

War is being fought between guerrillas and self-defence groups for control of the 'banana belt' of northern Colombia. Phil Gunson reports from Acandí

RAMON CORREA was walking to the neighbouring hamlet of Capitán to buy cheese, when the paramilitaries stopped him. There were about 70 of them, witnesses said later, in army uniforms and accompanied by two deserters from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc). The group had already killed one alleged guerrilla collaborator. Ramón's name was on their list. His partially buried body was found nearby a week later, stabbed to death. His hands were tied behind his back.

The annual murder rate in the banana belt is more than eight times that of Bogotá. In Turbo alone there were 403 homicides last year. Around 20,000 people have fled, some leaving the region altogether. This does not worry the police chief, Captain Liván Fonseca, even though around 600 desplazados, including more than 200 children under 12, are suffering hardship and hunger here in Acandí.

Caught Anibal Guerra, marched him around the village, then killed him. "My information is it was the guerrillas," Capt Fonseca says. Local people know differently. Guerra's head was cut off with a knife, they say. The Farc always shoots its victims. Besides, Guerra had guerrilla connections. On November 3 the paramilitaries boasted: "This is just the beginning." Hours later the army was bombing and machine-gunning the area. Now land is cheap and "everyone wants to sell up and leave". Before long this area will be "cleansed" like the land east of the Gulf. These willing to stay on as cheap labour for the ranchers will, of course, be welcome.

News in brief

Two killed in Algeria blast
A bomb ripped through Berrouaghia, a bastion of Algerian Muslim rebels, yesterday, killing two people and wounding 10. The blast appeared to be a rapid response by Muslim guerrillas to a statement by President Lamine Zeroual saying that this year would be a year of political efforts with the opposition to end civil strife. — Reuters.

Deaths in custody
Sixteen people have died while in police custody in the Malawi capital, Lilongwe, apparently because of overcrowding. — Reuters.

New Scorsese film
The US film director Martin Scorsese and the leading Italian fashion designer Giorgio Armani announced a new film yesterday to document the history of Italian cinema. — Reuters.

Bombay collapse
At least 30 people were feared killed when a five-storey building collapsed in north-east Bombay yesterday, police and fire brigade sources said. — Reuters.

Rescue mission
South African newspaper editors are mounting a mission to rescue two of their counterparts from prison in Zambia, writes David Beresford in Johannesburg. The Freedom of Expression Institute is

Car Insurance over £300? Call Admiral now 0800 600 800 ADMIRAL

Workers have rights too
One company's red tape is another person's job

WHO doesn't want to cut red tape? But beware: some regulations are much more than red tape. Some have been put in place to safeguard fundamental rights, like the right to be treated fairly by employers. Not content with the drastic reduction that ministers have already made to workers' rights over the last 17 years — a reduction which has left British workers among the least protected within the European Union — Michael Heseltine clearly wanted to go further. The letter leaked yesterday suggests the Deputy Prime Minister was intent on removing from millions of workers the right to seek damages for unfair dismissal. The leaked letter — from Trade Secretary Ian Lang — clearly warns Mr Heseltine of the controversy he is courting: "Any suggestion that employees in small firms were to be denied employment rights would, of course, be immensely controversial and it might be imprudent to attract such criticism only to have to retract the proposals at a later date." True on both counts: controversy and on the dubious legality of the proposals.

small businesses greeted the Heseltine proposals. As they were reminded by the Liberal Democrat leader, a secure small business sector is not achieved by encouraging employers to adopt a crude fire-and-hire mentality. More constructive proposals emerged yesterday from the all party Commons select committee on employment. The MPs called for more experimental programmes for the long-term unemployed, ranging from an urgent expansion of the existing small-scale "workstart" schemes under which employers receive subsidies for taking on long-term unemployed (which has succeeded in finding them work but been less successful in generating new jobs) to new pilot "workfare" programmes set out in Sir Ralph Howell's Right to Work Bill, under which, instead of receiving benefits, the unemployed would be paid for taking part in socially useful community projects. The one million long-term unemployed remain the biggest social challenge facing the country. Once out of work for more than a year, individuals are four times less likely to find a job. Worse still is the psychological and physical deterioration that sets in. As medical journals have documented, long-term unemployment causes anxiety, depression, neurotic disorders and premature death. There is no single solution. We need a bundle of programmes: wider training opportunities, better benefit-to-work schemes, more in-work income support schemes and well-structured socially rewarding community schemes. A promising political consensus is emerging. There were echoes in yesterday's report of Gordon Brown's plan for the under-25s. Frank Field, the Labour MP, is supporting Sir Ralph's Bill. Both major parties need to commit heresy: Labour on the notion of an obligation to work; Conservatives on the principle of a right to work.

The folly of Clinton's Cuban heel
US hysteria shouldn't interfere with international trade

THE US CUBAN embargo has now been ratcheted up to a new punitive level which, whether or not it shakes Congress's foe in Havana, is certainly alarming Washington's European friends. Bill Clinton's decision to drop his previous resistance to parts of the Helms-Burton Bill was precipitated by the Cuban airforce's shooting down last month of two civilian planes flown by hostile exile pilots. But the speech yesterday in Miami by Republican candidate Bob Dole, at a Cuban-American rally, reminds us of a weighty political factor too. Mr Dole did his best to outbid Mr Clinton by calling for the indictment and conviction on murder charges of the Cuban airforce pilots — pure theatre since the federal writ hardly runs in Havana. But there are votes to be won — or lost — among the exiles, and the President knows it too. The Cuban action was certainly a harsh and foolish act at a time when the administration had begun a mild relaxation of restrictions. Wednesday's speech by the Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina in the Security Council implied that the decision to fire on the planes was taken by the airforce command without direct authorisation from his government. That makes the action easier to understand and the dossier of provocative flights undertaken previously by the "Brothers to the Rescue" is also part of the context. But Cuba was still wrong to be goaded by these gaddy assaults. It is a pity that the embattled state of relations with the

US did not permit Mr Robaina to say that this was a bad mistake. Yet Havana's over-reaction one afternoon three weeks ago has to be set against the persistent over-reaction of the US for decades to the very existence of Castro's Cuba. Years ago Britain braved Washington's wrath by allowing Leyland buses to be exported to Cuba: members of Congress regarded the sight of double-deckers in the streets of Havana as outright betrayal of the free world. US anti-Castro hysteria has remained at a consistently high level: only Vietnam has (until recently) been more persistently victimised. The new bill would legalise various forms of action against foreign companies or individuals with interests in Cuba who are deemed to have "trafficked" in property nationalised by the Castro government at any time since the 1969 revolution. The US government could impose trade restrictions and ban visas: US citizens and Cuban-Americans could sue the "traffickers" in US courts. There is a strong case, to be considered today by the EU, for regarding this aspect of the legislation as a violation of world trade rules under the World Trade Organisation. In addition, the bill seeks to dissuade the World Bank or other institutions from providing loans or finance to Cuba "until a democratically elected government is in power". This is a remarkable demand indeed from a country which has handed out billions of dollars of aid to an array of undemocratic regimes.

Counting sheep the hard way

Genetic engineering is a potential threat to human diversity

THE CLONING of sheep — which most of us can't tell apart anyway — may seem an inauspicious place for a great breakthrough in genetic engineering but the implications are awesome. It is now theoretically possible to clone a human being: all the reservations expressed by eminent scientists yesterday won't prevent someone doing it somewhere, sometime. Even if done honourably it is not of obvious advantage to humanity. What's the point of a football team consisting of 11 George Best clones playing another team of clones. It would, arguably, be the Best team in the world but also the most boring because there wouldn't be bad players against whom to measure the good ones. (Drinking in the bar afterwards wouldn't be much fun either.) Futurists talk of producing a generation of Einsteins, but who can recognise genius in embryonic cells? Einstein didn't come from particularly clever

parents and was told by his teacher that he would never amount to anything. More likely, as geneticist Dr Patrick Dixon said yesterday, that someone like Saddam Hussein would be fascinated by watching himself grow up. Cloning may have gone further than we realise if yesterday's news is true that someone called Saddam Hussein will preside over the June world chess championship in Baghdad. The real Saddam would hardly dare appear in public. The cloning of animals and plant life carries dangers because genetically identical sheep or tomatoes could be wiped out by a sudden disease. Humans may see genetic engineering as an insurance against vanishing fertility or computers getting too smart, but we should pride diversity above all else. In this sense nature really does know best. Apart from the pleasure involved, mating spreads destiny's risks. Thank goodness for sex.



Letters to the Editor

Purpose of the prince

YOUR article and editorial on the future of the monarchy (March 5) is long overdue and most welcome. We, on this side of the water, have had many debates on the subject, as it is considered by many people here to be one of the pillars of the sectarian scourge that divides us. Why must Britain be the only country in Europe that decrees its head of state belongs to a particular religion (ie C of E Protestant)? This concept alone is the reason d'être of such arcane organisations as the Orange Order and all the mayhem that divides us. It gives resonance to the view that to be a real British citizen, one must be a Protestant.

THE noteworthy finding of your ICM poll is that a substantial minority does not see Prince Charles for the break-up of his marriage. This, in the face of the propaganda of broadsheets, Princess Diana's appearances and interviews to the media, the statements of one of two bishops and the occasional blurring of the lines between the Guardian with the Murdoch's stable, is remarkable. An individual like myself, who values Prince Charles for his intellectual and caring qualities, would not comment on the breakdown of his marriage. So, in the tabloid war for circulation he is bound to suffer. The ICM poll, in spite of its deficiencies, shows that many people are capable of seeing beyond the smoke screen of the monarchy. 220 The Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8RS.

SO, we are led to believe that backbenchers in the House of Commons would like a debate on the monarchy. Fine, let's open the debate with those MPs who privately advocate a republic coming out of the closet and publicly declaring their views. Should they decline to do so it would confirm my view that, despite the marital problems of certain members of the royal family, MPs recognise that the vast majority of the British public support the institution of monarchy and would not support any party whose MPs openly called for its abolition. 44 Wales Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 0ET.

IT IS alarming to note the media attention being given to the monarchy. As a pensioner, and with a general election approaching, I do not want to see political leaders left off the hook of addressing the urgent questions of the economy, unemployment, the disappearing health and social services, ever-diminishing retirement pensions in relation to average earnings, education etc. This irrelevant diversion, if pursued further, will lead to an even more divided nation, when working together as one people and as members of one society is the crying need. Beryl Urquhart, 28 Estuary Park, Cowbridge, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2QP.

IT isn't necessary to have been in the Army to believe that there are no bad troops — only bad officers. Where were the officers in the cases which you have rightly described as the "Army roll-call of shame?" Either they knew what was going on, and did nothing, or they didn't know. What level of professionalism was that? Nor does one have to be an imperial historian to appreciate the frequently decisive contribution of troops from ethnic minorities to the many past successes of British arms on the battlefield. The situation you have described is a national outrage — all the more so now that the technical professionalism of the British Army is widely appreciated in Europe. Bill Clarence, Royal Air Force, 01170 Crozet, France.

AS a white British soldier I served as a non-commissioned officer with the West African Forces in the Far East during the second world war. It was a punishable offence then to use any form of derogatory name for the soldiers who were always referred to as West African troops. What has gone wrong with the British Army of today? A B Moore, 83 Tile Kiln Lane, Bexley, Kent DA5 2BD.

Pan people

WHEN Morris Mitchener was apparently traumatised and exhibited signs of fear at the West Yorkshire Playhouse (Peter Pan producers sued over the boy who wouldn't look up, March 14) he wouldn't have been a good idea to take the child out of the production? Maybe his parents could have attempted to return after a break, but if as they say, the theatre was negligent and hadn't warned them that small children may find the production frightening, they could have demanded their money back. Susan Paylor, 14 Ambleside Road, Lancaster LA1 3HT.

Labour in a class of its own

PROFESSOR Bob Moon (Education, March 5) is right about New Labour and education, but it's worse, much worse, than that. The sociologists of education in America and Britain laboured mightily in the 1960s and 1970s to prove, over and over again, that little Johnny in the council house with no books does not do as well at school as little Johnny whose father and mother have several degrees between them: a lot of books, and the salaries to pay for nursery school, musical tuition, foreign holidays etc, etc. Yes, the Headstart teams and Midwinter and Bernstein et al did what sociologists are supposed to do: they proved the obvious. The chief determinant of educational performance is parental background and income — class, in the more robust discourse of a bygone era. But there is the problem: the C word. New Labour doesn't like the C word; abhors it. The C word reeks of the poor, the losers, with whom New Labour does not want to be associated. New Labour wants euphemisms — inner city, deprivation. New Labour can't accept the view that being poor is the problem because New Labour has become "sensible" about economics; about poverty and inequality it can thus do nothing. So it has to find something else; and there's not a lot of choice, really, is there? If not the home, then it's the school. Which means the teachers, or trendy teaching methods, or comprehensives. New Labour

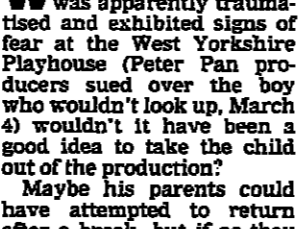
The future is not all grey

CONGRATULATIONS on having the courage to suggest the unthinkable — that the UK may actually need immigrants in future decades because of the ageing of the existing population (The Guardian, March 6). Recognition of this possibility is by no means unfamiliar elsewhere in Europe. There are, in fact, some good reasons why we should not rely on immigration to redress the age imbalance in the population, not least that immigrants also get older and need pensions and health care. However, there are other, strong arguments for reconsidering our hostility to overseas labour: their entrepreneurial skills (largely denied to the UK by immigration rules which exclude all but the most wealthy) and continuing skill shortages in the public and private sector, which have ensured that the majority of work permits issued for overseas employees has risen over the last decade despite the level of unemployment. ment. Yet almost 20 per cent of applications from employers are turned down, denying them access to the overseas workers they want. In the course of our research, employers' representatives told us that "Restrictions via the work permit scheme on recruitment and training strategies may result in multi-nationals moving their HQ operations to countries where work permit restrictions are considerably less onerous." The lesson of history is that immigrants and refugees can bring significant benefits, economic and cultural. While public debate on this issue is yet again dominated by proposed legislation to impose ever tighter restrictions, it is a lesson that appears to have been lost. Sarah Spencer, Director, Human Rights Programme, Institute for Public Policy Research, 30-32 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7RA.

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: When the local pack of foxhounds hunt around Harnham, the farmer stands on the medieval tower of his farmstead to direct the huntsman. A historian tells me that he is simply doing what his ancestors must have done. She showed me photographs and drawings of towers in France. "Landowners from these border counties travelled on the continent," she said. "French chateaux in medieval times watched hunting from their residences and needed a high building. The idea was copied over here." Certainly the Englishmen spent much time in the 14th Century, abounding with similar thick-walled tower houses with identical bartizans to ours. The historian showed me how she dates the peles; transoms are horizontal crossbars on the windows, the lower the transoms, the older the tower. Stone walls, or dykes, as the locals call them here, stretch for miles in this county of castles, bastles and pele towers. Records at Capheaton

Now, whose vows sounded more convincing...? Was it Sharon's...?



Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. Please include a full address and daytime telephone number, even in e-mailed letters. We may edit them: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

Why th...
merc...
Still
A

10 OBITUARIES

The Rt Rev Stanley Booth-Clibborn

People's friend

REFLECTION on the life and ministry of Stanley Booth-Clibborn, lately Bishop of Manchester, who has died aged 71, serves to underline the unfairness of pinning labels on prominent church leaders...



Christian soldier... Booth-Clibborn, a feeling for the poor, the oppressed, the outcast

abilities, however. The British Council of Churches, Lincoln Theological College and Christian Aid (Anne was later to chair its board) all made use of his expertise...

not unkind or vengeful. Lest these qualities may seem to suggest weak leadership, emphasis must be laid on the decisive pronouncements and actions he was able to pursue...

James Sutherland

Critic next to greatness

JAMES SUTHERLAND who has died aged 95, began his inaugural lecture as Lord Northcliffe Professor of English at University College, London, by observing that there were things more significant than great literature but criticism was not one of them...



Simon Cadell... with Patricia Hodge in Noel and Gerlie

Simon Cadell

Hi-de-Hi to high class

SIMON CADELL, who has died of cancer at the age of 45, was a dedicated actor who often disguised his serious nature behind an off-stage languid manner...

Though he was a grandson of the actress Jean Cadell and the son of a well-known theatrical agent, there was early pressure on the young Simon not to make the stage his career...

Jack Sutherland

secret wartime Enigma code-breaking operation

JACK SUTHERLAND, who has died aged 79, was the Morning Star's theatre critic. He was also an interviewer of Hugh MacDiarmid, Sean O'Casey and Yevgeny Yevtushenko...

Jackdaw

machine. Electronics are to most people still a black box. However, it is that boxiness which makes it possible for them to exist...

Threadbare

THE LAST thing a junior barrister wants is a new wig. The dapper and older looking the better, says Jonathan Hill, sales consultant in the legal department clothing at Thresher and Glenny...

Sitting pretty

Designers: Hugh Brown, John Heiden. They've been around," he says. Barristers will go to great lengths to make their wigs look fashionably old...

Birthdays

Gyles Brandreth, broadcaster, comic, Conservative MP, 48; Sir Julian Bullard, former diplomat, 68; Sir Anthony Caro, sculptor, 72...

Death Notices

BOOTH-CLIBBORN, in the Royal Interment, Edinburgh, on March 6 1996. Stanley Booth-Clibborn former Bishop of Manchester...

Open the box

I CHANCED upon some people in the street examining the entrails of some disposed computers and a fax machine...

Get out, now!

SLIP OUT the back, Jack. Make a new plan, Stan. You don't need to be coy, Roy...

Helrich's Barbie chair can be collapsed for bike trips

Designer: Rogerio Cavalheiro. Training: Architectural designer. Philosophy: "Barbie was ahead of her time. She was the first woman on the moon..."

Jackdaw wants jewels

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Dan Glaister

With the shrinking military industrial complex, adds Brown, "we need a new use for all those old GI Joes..."

Can Alicia Silverstone Save Sony?

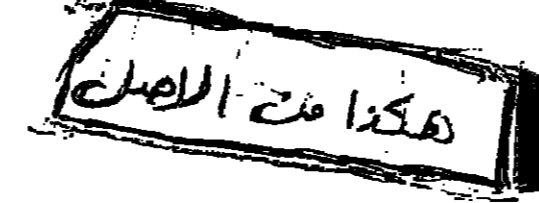
Los Angeles. Can Alicia Silverstone Save Sony? The answer is yes, if Sony can get its act together...

Los Angeles

Los Angeles. With the shrinking military industrial complex, adds Brown, "we need a new use for all those old GI Joes..."

Los Angeles

Los Angeles. Designer: Bob Helfrich. Training: Licensed architect. Philosophy: "Barbie is the opposite of what is good for the world..."



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Wessex offers lower bills for neighbours

WESSEX Water yesterday promised to cut the water bills of South West Water's 1.5 million customers if its proposed £550 million plus bid for its neighbouring utility succeeds...

But the planned bid, which will have to be approved by both the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and trade and industry secretary Ian Lang, was coolly received by the SWW board chaired by Keith Court...

SWW customers have the highest water and sewage charges in the country partly because the company has invested heavily to resolve a range of problems including water pollution along its huge coastline...

Wessex, headed by Nicholas Hood (right), is prepared to offer "a commercially justifiable premium" to SWW's closing price on Wednesday of 508p...

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER



Hong Kong Notebook

Democracy has hefty price tag



Alex Brummer

MANY in Hong Kong's business community believe that the best way of ensuring a smooth transition to Chinese rule is to do what the Chinese want.

This view has encouraged many tycoons to dissociate themselves from Governor Chris Patten's policy of encouraging a measure of genuine democracy in the colony, even if this causes problems in Beijing...

Although Singapore does not offer the same freedoms, there are opinion leaders here who say it could challenge Hong Kong's leadership. The costs for international financial institutions of doing business from Hong Kong has become prohibitive as a result of inflated property prices and rising labour costs.

There is some concern that when China does take over there may be a new cost of corruption. No deal can be present be done in Shanghai or Shenzhen without some greasing of palms...

the flag comes down. Indeed, in preparation for Chris Patten's evacuation of Government House, Britain is building a huge new consulate in the shadow of the Conrad hotel...

Although Britain is no longer Hong Kong's biggest investor, its stake is considerable. Figures, collated by Britain's trade commission suggest that UK investment in the colony is still worth £70 billion, down from £80 billion in 1993 as a result of a decline in stock market values and the migration of Jardines from Hong Kong to London and Singapore...

But the main significance of Hong Kong to the UK is as an export location. Some £300 million of UK exports go to Hong Kong each year. Another £845 million worth passed through last year on the way to China. The commercial weight of this relationship is among the reasons why British political leaders have treaded so warily when dealing with Beijing and will, despite John Major's brave words here, continue to do so.

Swiss merger puts Zeneca in bid frame

Mark Milner and Sarah Whitebloom

NEWS of a £40 billion Swiss pharmaceuticals merger sparked speculation of a fresh shake-up in the industry, worldwide, with Britain's Zeneca in the bid spotlight.

The announcement of the link-up between Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz to form the world's second-largest drugs company to be called Novartis, sent international pharmaceutical shares soaring.

In London, Zeneca shares rose 96p to £13.77, while in Frankfurt Germany's three big chemicals groups, BASF, Bayer and Hoechst, which all have strong pharmaceutical operations, rose sharply.

Despite a string of mergers in recent years, including Glaxo's £9.1 billion acquisition of Wellcome and Rhône-Poulenc's hostile takeover of Fisons, the global market remains fragmented. Yesterday's merger will put the new company in second place in terms of market share, with 44 per cent behind Glaxo-Wellcome's share of around 57 per cent.

It will also mean the loss of some 13,000 jobs - about 10 per cent of the combined Ciba/Sandoz workforce. The two groups reckon the merger will produce savings of £1 billion over the next three years.

Brokers have long earmarked Zeneca as an attractive target. Another Swiss

group, Roche, has been tipped as a likely candidate for a tie-up with the UK group, while some suggest that Bayer and Pfizer from the US may be looking for a strategic move.

Yesterday Zeneca reacted coolly to the speculation. David Barnes, chief executive of the former ICI division, insisted that "size is not everything in the pharmaceuticals business", maintaining that there was plenty of room in the drugs market for "players of all sizes".

Mr Barnes said: "Our policy is to drive the business as hard and as fast as we know how. It is not a strategic imperative for us to do something just for the sake of doing something..."

It is not like the aerospace industry, where there is a merit from size. There is no evidence that research-and-development productivity increases with size... Quite the opposite."

Mr Barnes pointed to a 15 per cent increase in full-year profits before exceptional items to £878 million - although goodwill write-offs took the post-exceptions pre-tax total down from £939 million to £825 million.

Zeneca's pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals businesses had an "excellent year", according to the group, with sales rising beyond £2 billion for the first time.

Directors deny cashing in on false market • City 'hopping mad'

Vickers draws fire

Lisa Buckingham and Chris Barrie

VICKERS, the engineering group, yesterday plunged into controversy as leading shareholders accused company directors of cashing in on a false market in the group's shares...

But at an investment meeting with analysts held at 11.30am, Vickers' executives appeared considerably more downbeat about the group's trading prospects, pointing to a number of one-off factors which had buoyed the 1995 results but would not carry forward into the current year.

Vickers' shares were 14p up on their opening price when that meeting began. But shortly after it finished, they were 7p lower, reflecting concerns raised at the session.

heard more about the trading prospects - three of the company's directors had exercised 288,572 options at 86p and immediately sold most of them into the market at 82.5p.

Sir Colin netted a profit of £382,290 on his share sale leaving him with just 42,500 shares in the company he heads. His boardroom colleague, commercial director Andrew John, made £108,754 and Roger Head, finance and planning managing director, made £33,000.

"Institutions are hopping mad," said one leading fund manager. "Some of them are even talking about the possibility of legal action."

One senior analyst commented: "Between an upbeat trading statement and an effective profits warning at the meeting there was a false market in the shares."

A Vickers spokeswoman denied there was any question of inflated property prices and rising labour costs.

However, another fund manager said that although there appeared not to have been any illegality, the sales reflected badly on the reputation of the company and its boardroom in the City.

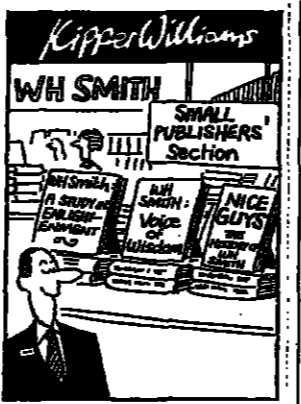
WH Smith calls peace talks with publishers

Lisa Buckingham

WH SMITH, the newsagency, music and bookselling group, has signalled a willingness to climb down from its "get tough" approach to small publishers by calling a meeting with representatives of the sector on Monday.

Gerald Jenkins, the new chairman of the Guild of Independent Publishers (GIP), said he would meet executives from WH Smith to discuss the group's plans to demand far bigger discounts and substantially improved credit terms from small suppliers.

A number of local independent book publishers say the immediate imposition of new terms of trade could drive them out of business. It is understood that several



have taken legal advice on the possibility of referring the issue to the Office of Fair Trading, although none has yet lodged a formal complaint and no industry-wide initiative has been agreed. It appears the GIP will hold this potential weapon in reserve.

Worries about the tactics of WH Smith, which sells one in every four books, were prominent at the annual conference of GIP, which has more than 300 members, last weekend.

Partners share a £57m slice of John Lewis trade surplus

Lisa Buckingham

THE 35,000 employees-partners of John Lewis, the department store and supermarkets group, are to receive a bonus worth almost eight weeks' pay following record profits of £150 million in the year to January.

The company, which operates 23 department stores and 112 branches of Waitrose and is Britain's largest employee controlled business, will distribute £27 million of that surplus to staff. Chairman Stuart Hampson said yesterday they were the driving force behind the increased profits.

The 28 per cent growth in profit, on sales 9 per cent higher, at £2.8 billion, was achieved despite the hot summer hitting department store sales and the fact that Waitrose faces continued strong price competition from rivals such as Sainsbury and Tesco.

Sales in the department stores - which, alone in the high street, offer nearly 500,000 product lines - increased by 7 per cent. Waitrose added 13 per cent providing the third year of strong profits rebound for the company which suffered badly in the early years of the decade.

Global drug deals

Table listing global drug deals with columns for date, deal details, and value in billions of dollars.

RTZ offers Aborigines £30m for land rights

Ian King

AROUND 150 Aborigine families in Queensland, Australia, have been offered A\$60 million (£30 million) over a 20-year period by RTZ, the world's biggest mining group, the company said yesterday.

Court ruling which rejected their right to native title on the land. Under Australia's Native Title Act, a tribunal will now consider the issues. Leon Davis, RTZ's deputy chief executive, said the company was prepared to "go back to square one" on the negotiations if necessary, but warned this could mean the mine being scaled down.

He added: "It's very difficult to determine just what the tribunal will decide, but we consider our offer to be a very attractive one - it's the highest offer ever made by a mining company in Australia."

News in brief

Cable operator calls up £1 bn

Telewest, Britain's largest cable operator, yesterday announced that it needed a further £1 billion to complete its networks and develop new services including probably the fastest Internet link yet for residential customers.

Ladbroke hit hard

Betting shops to hotels group Ladbroke has been hit hard by competition from the National Lottery and the cancellation of horse race meetings because of bad weather, though no final decision has been made on whether to use this type of financing.

Northumberland boost

A new 180-job factory was yesterday announced for an area which has suffered increased unemployment in the wake of pit closures. US-owned Simula Automotive Safety Devices will produce airbags for cars on the Wansbeck Business Park at Ashington, Northumberland, after a £4 million investment. The company, a subsidiary of Simula Inc, expects to create 110 of the jobs within 12 months.

Rolls profits take off

Aero-engine maker Rolls-Royce, which saw profits rise 73 per cent last year, to £175 million on sales 13 per cent higher at £3.59 billion, said further improvements lay ahead as cost-cutting and growing airline profitability fed through to its profit margins. Shares rose 4p to close at 215p.

Table of TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS, listing rates for various countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, etc.

12 FINANCE AND ECONOMICS



RICHARD THOMAS and SIMON BEAVIS say islands of socialism float in the colony's sea of capitalism. Myths of Patten's pattern for Britain

HONG Kong is riddled with myths. But the biggest myth is that the territory is a laissez-faire society, free from the grubby touch of government hands.

their income on rent. The government builds a new home every 13 minutes. Transport projects like the new airport are plotted against a 30-year planning cycle and the transport system operates under the long shadow of state regulation.

Fung puts it, islands of statism in this sea of capitalism. He says the two approaches complement each other, with state housing a silent partner in Hong Kong's economic success.

ment enthusiasm waning. This week's budget pledged a 16 per cent rise in spending on housing and new building work already accounts for a quarter of all state capital spending.

the forefront of free market thinking. In fact, the system has always relied on state intervention to make it work, and growing congestion and pollution is provoking even greater state involvement.

to China by 2000. Electronic road pricing, tried in the mid-80s and dropped because of privacy worries, is back on the cards.

ally unheard of: there were only nine last year. But Stephen Ip, the labour commissioner, has stopped using the term "deregulated" to describe the market.

recent moves to improve conditions, but say the market is still strongly tilted against workers.



Hong Kong's prosperous image disguises a growing gap between rich and poor, which dwarfs the levels of inequality in Taiwan and Singapore. The lives of the haves and have-nots, described respectively by ANDREW HIGGINS and RICHARD THOMAS, rarely cross

Fine to be flash

PARTY the rich of Hong Kong. The airport, Kai Tak, is the scene of a cramped, an indispensable trophy for millionaires elsewhere.

Hong Kong still has its flamboyant party-goers, among them Kai-bong and Brenda Chiu, frequently featured in glossy magazines with their his-and-hers Rolls-Royces.



Status symbol... Yachts less than 80ft long embarrass rich. The poor have different problems PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

Colony of invisibility

PART of the way through his sentence, Ah Lau pauses. He has to — a Boeing 747 from nearby Kai Tak airport is passing overhead.

to the top, and say today's poor should do the same. "The instinct of the poor is one of aspiration, not resignation. They do not feel sorry for themselves.

Authentic Tang of China is set to conquer world

Jonathan Corfino DAVID Tang, the millionaire who counts Prince Diana and the Duchess of York among his close friends, is seeking to develop China's first global brand name.

"I thought that if I invented a brand first, it would always be in front of any that follow and it will be able to ride on the much greater recognition of China over the next few years."

In order to make the brand more authentic, Mr Tang intends to open a store in Shanghai and wants to add to the merchandise range which already includes curries such as art deco ashtrays and Red Army watches.

Hopewell digs itself into deep debt hole

Outlook Roger Cowe

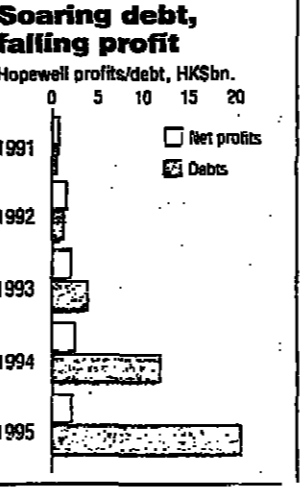
HOPE springs eternal but Hopewell may not. It is the Eurotunnel of Hong Kong, a builder of mega-projects that always seem to cost more, take longer and attract fewer customers than planned.

HK\$9 billion budget, and a year late. There were geological problems, with soft ground in the Pearl river delta, which required 48 miles to be built on stilts.

In a recent analysis, the broker SBC Warburg reckoned that over the 30-year life of Hopewell's rights the company will earn more than HK\$35 billion.

depressingly needed to diminish Bangkok's traffic congestion. As Mr Wu also remarked recently: "I am a marketer of projects."

HK\$6.3 billion next year. And the group needs to raise more than HK\$25 billion to finance planned projects over the next couple of years.



Tomorrow

Play hard: racing at Happy Valley, gambling in Macau — pastimes of the colonial era. Work hard: taking the 6 o'clock commuter train to Shenzhen, the territory's cut-price manufacturing base in China. Plus: the shop window of the Far East

مكتبات الامارات

Athletics

Ladejo set for sharp angles

Stephen Bierley in Stockholm expects the 400m runner to show both his sides

STOCKHOLM'S Globe arena, which claims to be the largest spherical building in the world, has all the distant charm of a nuclear power station and is out of keeping with the rest of this bustling city, which is bidding for the 2004 Olympic Games.

And, for all its futuristic stamp, the stadium houses an indoor track which belongs to the dark ages of RAF Cottesford. Du'aine Ladejo, arguably Britain's best hope for a gold medal in the European Indoor Championships which begin today, took one look at the blue-carpeted boards yesterday and said: "I don't know what I'm doing here."

When you are looking down the straight, the bends seem to be at right angles," he said. "It really isn't up to international standards."

This might also be said of the British team, but in Olympic year there are extenuating circumstances. Malcolm Arnold, Britain's chief coach, was always aware that the majority of the country's top athletes would not want to include Stockholm in their build-up to Atlanta and that this would be a chance for others to establish themselves.

For Ladejo, the European indoor track was a disappointment in 1994. Stockholm represents an international restoration after last year was all but wiped out by injury.

The authorities continue to eye the 25-year-old Londoner, a graduate of Texas University, with interest. Ladejo is very much his own man, holding views that are clearly at variance with those whose minds are still encased in blazer and tie. "I want people to be excited about athletics," he said. "I want to remember what they have seen."

This was true of the Kelvin

Hall a couple of weeks ago when, in the 4x400m relay, Ladejo did a passable imitation of Sir Simon Rattle and was duly accused, to the accompaniment of crashing bores, of being disrespectful to both the French and the body athletic.

"Look, there was no way I was trying to belittle the French," he reiterated yesterday. "People in the crowd told me it was great I had pointed at them with the baton. It is in my nature to do something — more than likely, although he would never wish it to be predictable, on Sunday afternoon, when he should retain his indoor title. The only European to have run faster this year is Italy's Ashraf Saber.

It is entirely possible that Britain may have struck gold before then, for Bath's Jason Gardener, with his 60m run of 6.55sec in the GB v Russia international at Birmingham, is currently top of the European rankings.

Gardener has been lightly raced but confirmed his quality, also at Birmingham, when coming third behind Nigeria's Davidson Ezirwa and Canada's world indoor champion Brumy Surin in the Rioch International.

The suggestion that the 20-year-old Gardener, a world junior silver medal winner over 100m, was here merely to gain experience was politely rejected. "The fastest man takes all," he said, brooking no arguments.

Should he win tonight, and his main rival appears to be Germany's Marc Blume, then the immediate tangible benefit would be that he would gain invitations to the early-spring grands prix. He was in the relay squad for the world championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, but his aim this summer is to win an individual place at Atlanta.

Ashia Hansen has failed to qualify for the triple jump final in her last three major championships but, provided she does not equal her best should qualify with ease, her worst jump this winter being 14.15m.



On edge... Ladejo does not like the look of Stockholm's indoor bends

Olympic Games

Nebiolo strikes it rich

PRIMO NEBIOLO, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, wearing another hat as head of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations, has driven a hard bargain with the International Olympic Committee to gain a much larger proportion of the IOC's television and marketing revenues from the Games in Atlanta this summer. Athletics gets the lion's share.

The IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch promised an extra \$23 million (\$21 million) to the 26 sports taking part, with sports split into four categories, based on television audience ratings at the Barcelona Games, for the distribution of the extra money. This is in addition to the federations' traditional percentage of Olympic television income, which will be \$56.6 million in Atlanta.

Although Samaranch said the federations were happy with the deal, Nebiolo revealed that bigger claims were on the way. There would be further negotiations for Sydney in 2000 and the federations wanted a greater share from 2004 onwards, when the IOC will receive 51 per cent of Olympic revenues, up from 40 per cent.

For Atlanta the 26 sports federations, who each received \$1.446 million in Barcelona, will divide the \$56.6 million standard share equally, each taking \$2.177 million. In addition, athletics will be given \$6.5 million, some 20 per cent of the extra, while volleyball, basketball, swimming and gymnastics will net \$2.5 million each and tennis, hockey, rowing, handball, cycling and equestrianism each take \$1 million. The IOC will receive \$500,000 of the extra money promised by the IOC.

Nebiolo said he was not in danger of sports feeling they had been short-changed by the Olympic class system. "The federations are satisfied," he said.

Racing

Champion bid still an option for Right Win

RIGHT WIN has been reintroduced into the Ascot market as a contender for the 2001 Mervin Stables Champion Hurdle. Richard Hannon decided to leave him in at yesterday's five-day declaration stage when 17 stood their ground.

There were no surprise absences, although David Elsworth has taken out Oh So Risky, who broke a blood vessel at Ascot last time, and relies on Absalom's Lady and Muse.

Hannon also has Right Win in the Clifton Supreme Novice Hurdle, for which there are still 37 entries, and will decide where to run according to the ground.

If the going continues to dry up Hannon may well decide to let his six-year-old go to the Clifton Supreme. He believes the soft going stopped him at Kempton last time when he was fourth behind Alderbrook.

"Although he liked a bit of give on the flat, there's a world of difference between soft going in the summer and soft during the winter," said Hannon.

A victory for Right Win in the Champion would be the worst result for Coral's new betting system, which he laid the horse heavily after he scored impressively at Sandown on his hurdling debut in January.

Alderbrook, who could do with some rain, leads the market at even odds followed by Danoli at 9-2 and Hotel Mirabella at 5-1. They then bet 6-1 Mysliv, 12-1 Collier Bay, another mudlark, and 20-1 Land Afric and Mack The Knife.

Hotel Mirabella, representing Aidan O'Brien and Charlie Swan, prefers a decent surface and would be strongly fancied to reverse Irish Champion Hurdle form with Collier Bay who beat him a head in testing conditions at Leopardstown.

The decision of Swan to ride Life Of A Lord in the Martell Grand National rather than ante-post favourite Lo Stragone has not caused too many problems for the latter's trainer, Thomas Tate, who has booked Jamie Osborne.

"Jamie is a super-sub and won on Lo Stragone at Newbury last year, so I'm quite happy," said Tate.

Dick Hern was a rare visitor to Wincanton yesterday and those who took the hint were rewarded with an 8-1 winner when his Mutazz won the opening race.

Hern was inevitably quizzed about the well-being of the 2,000 Guineas favourite Alhaarth and commented: "I'm a happy chaser, but I'm with him at this stage. We'll wait and see whether he has run before the Guineas. It depends on the ground."

Brooks chaser the class act

MERE CLASS, trained by Charlie Brooks, stands out at the weights in today's feature event at Sandown, the Horse and Hound Grand National. Brooks' stablemate, writes Chris Hawkins.

He was pulled up behind Percy Smollett at Ascot last time, but before that ran with great promise when three months third to Willsford at Sandown.

Mere Class (3.10) had Mr Boston 10 lengths behind him in fourth then and meets that rival on 7lb better terms this afternoon.

The card starts with an interesting clash between Zephyrus and Crown Equerry (2.00), preference being for

Market Rasen programme

1.40 Mel Brown	3.15 East Newton
1.40 Shannon Cove	3.20 Tony Galt
2.45 Tough Deal	4.30 ANOTHER CORAL (imp)
	4.30 Anabach

Colony of Capital
Britain
visibility

1.40 Mel Brown	3.15 East Newton
1.40 Shannon Cove	3.20 Tony Galt
2.45 Tough Deal	4.30 ANOTHER CORAL (imp)
	4.30 Anabach

Colony of Capital
Britain
visibility

Sandown card with guide to the form

1.40 Mel Brown	3.15 East Newton
1.40 Shannon Cove	3.20 Tony Galt
2.45 Tough Deal	4.30 ANOTHER CORAL (imp)
	4.30 Anabach

Colony of Capital
Britain
visibility

Results

1.40 Mel Brown	3.15 East Newton
1.40 Shannon Cove	3.20 Tony Galt
2.45 Tough Deal	4.30 ANOTHER CORAL (imp)
	4.30 Anabach

Colony of Capital
Britain
visibility

Ayr runners and riders

1.50 Shaggy Bend	3.30 Deep Decision (sh)
2.50 Sabin	4.00 Rocky Dee
3.50 Buzzaam	4.30 Stalk The Cash

3.30 Arthur Challenge Cup Handicap Chase

1	15-2004 ONE FOR THE POT (10) M A Naughton 11-10-0	J Baggot (5)
2	4-400 SHAMROCK BUCKLE (10) P Foster 8-11-3	B Baggot (5)
3	3-2545 DEEP DECISION (10) P Foster 8-11-3	B Baggot (5)
4	3-2545 DEEP DECISION (10) P Foster 8-11-3	B Baggot (5)
5	3-2545 DEEP DECISION (10) P Foster 8-11-3	B Baggot (5)

4.10 Duke of Gloucester Memorial Handicap Chase

1	15-2004 ONE FOR THE POT (10) M A Naughton 11-10-0	J Baggot (5)
2	4-400 SHAMROCK BUCKLE (10) P Foster 8-11-3	B Baggot (5)
3	3-2545 DEEP DECISION (10) P Foster 8-11-3	B Baggot (5)
4	3-2545 DEEP DECISION (10) P Foster 8-11-3	B Baggot (5)
5	3-2545 DEEP DECISION (10) P Foster 8-11-3	B Baggot (5)

4.30 Handicap Chase

1	15-2004 ONE FOR THE POT (10) M A Naughton 11-10-0	J Baggot (5)
2	4-400 SHAMROCK BUCKLE (10) P Foster 8-11-3	B Baggot (5)
3	3-2545 DEEP DECISION (10) P Foster 8-11-3	B Baggot (5)
4	3-2545 DEEP DECISION (10) P Foster 8-11-3	B Baggot (5)
5	3-2545 DEEP DECISION (10) P Foster 8-11-3	B Baggot (5)

14 SPORTS NEWS

The Guardian Friday March 8 1996

Cricket

Atherton aims to disarm explosive Sri Lankans

Mike Selvey in Faisalabad believes that England must meet flair with flair if they are to win their World Cup quarter-final tomorrow

IT SEEMS like only yesterday that England were last here and the cricketing world ground to a halt. Then, during the 1987-88 tour, Mike Selvey sat on his...

family. But those days are long gone and, for the past three weeks, followers of the tournament have come to regard this astonishing collection of cricketers as potential World Cup winners.

In last season's Benson and Hedges Cup final was a masterpiece, Ranatunga and Tillekeratne. Roshan Mahanama, who opens in Tests, does not get to the crease until the fall of the fifth wicket.

to counteract extraordinary flair with a bit of their own. In particular, the Sri Lankans have turned the innings on its head, treating the first 15 overs, when the bowling side is hamstrung by fielding restrictions, as other teams treat the latter stages after laying down a solid foundation.



Cork (left) ... 50-50 chance DeFreitas ... element of surprise

a feeling that Phil DeFreitas might prove more effective. It is also encouraging to see that Darren Gough has been practising his yorker with some vigour. This is his great strength and if he can produce plenty of them Sri Lanka might have a problem: fast inswinging yorkers are notoriously difficult to hit for six.



in the interests of keeping the other side guessing. England's batting remains unsure of itself, with the fine start given by Atherton and Robin Smith against Pakistan squandered by the sort of collapses down the order that destroy momentum.

Azharuddin hums up the situation

David Hopps in Bangalore on India's simple approach

AFTER THREE weeks the World Cup has thrown up the eight Pakistani qualifiers that had been anticipated and, although India's meeting with Pakistan at this stage might deny the sub-continent its favoured final, it is a fortuitous outcome at a time when the tournament needs a major stimulus.

land's media troupe, which might have some cause to be worried after a record of 10 defeats in 11 overseas tours, and nine one-day defeats in their last 10 against Test-standard opposition. But it is certain that until someone has the will and the imagination to break England's siege mentality, to encourage a greater freedom of expression on and off the field, to defend wronged players if necessary and, most importantly, to stop bleating about the unfairness of it all, then fulfilment will be so much harder to find.

Soccer

Scots get ticket bonus

Ben Stewart

SCOTLAND supporters are releasing 7,000 more tickets for the European Championship game against England at Wembley on June 15. There was also good news for England fans, with the organisers releasing 7,000 more tickets for the match against Holland three days later.

The Euro '96 director Glen Kirton revealed the details yesterday as the tournament celebrated its one millionth ticket sale.

"When we started selling tickets two years ago it was agreed that we would be fair to all teams," he said. "Our system guaranteed all finalists 7,000 tickets for every game they played. We said we would be as fair as we could, bearing in mind the constraints of security and safety, and Scotland's new allocation of 3,100 is the maximum we could live with."



Over the paper moon ... Ilie Dumitrescu at Upton Park with the work permit that entitles him to play for West Ham tomorrow

Dumitrescu and Hottiger clear to play

GOVERNMENT ministers sitting just round the corner from Westminster Abbey answered the prayers of Ilie Dumitrescu and Marc Hottiger yesterday by granting the two foreigners their work permits.

Cheryl Gillan and her Department for Education and Employment have bowed to pressure from within football and from some MPs to execute a U-turn since unequivocally turning down the players' applications a month ago because they had not met the criteria of playing 75 per cent of first-team games the previous year.

Now Dumitrescu and Hottiger are in line to make their debuts for West Ham and Everton respectively this weekend, after a recent meeting at the DEE between the leading football bodies in England and Scotland and the players' union, the PFA, agreed to change the criterion. Non-EU players will now be allowed one move between British clubs even if they have not played 75 per cent of their country's international games in the two years prior to the transfer.

Peter Storrie, "Ilie was beside himself when I told him." The Everton manager Joe Royle, who will include Hottiger (£750,000 from Newcastle) in his starting line-up, was also "delighted" but said: "Marc should not have been put through this anxiety. We said all along he was a proven international. He has been devastated by the whole affair, living with the fear that his career in England could be over."

run of the season over the past six weeks. The PFA has been the leading voice of dissent on the issue, expressing worry at the number of foreign players taking the jobs of home-grown talent. Its spokesman Brendan Batson gave the change a cautious welcome. "It is a compromise that meets the needs, at the moment, of the people involved in football. All we said is that, if there is a criterion, it should be adhered to. We were party to the agreed change and are happy with it."

Boxing

Wharton drops European title

HENRY WHARTON has signed a new two-year contract with manager Mickey Duff and the renewed partnership's first act was to relinquish the European super-middleweight title. Wharton was due to make his third defence against Freddie Selinger of France but Duff wants nothing to threaten his man's status as the WBC's leading contender to the new champion Sugar Ray Marlinga. This is the second time Wharton has fought his way to the WBC No. 1 berth. He was beaten by Benn in his first crack at that title and 10 months later he lost to Chris Eubank in a World Boxing Organisation challenge. Duff's champion bantamweight champion Johnny Armour has an infected hand and his defence against the Dane John Bredahl in Copenhagen has been postponed from March 29 to April 26.

Results

SOCCER EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Quarter-final, first leg: Dynamo Moscow 0, Rapid Vienna 1. GOLF MOROCCAN OPEN (par 72) First round: J. H. Turner (GB) 80, J. H. Turner (GB) 80, J. H. Turner (GB) 80. TENNIS MEN'S WORLD INDOOR TOURNAMENT: Quarter-final, first leg: J. H. Turner (GB) 80, J. H. Turner (GB) 80.

Billiards UK CHAMPIONSHIP (vignas): Final: M. Russell (Eng) 0, G. Carter (Eng) 100-127. BOWLS HOME INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Auchincloss): England 199, Wales 193, Scotland 187, Northern Ireland 181, Jersey 175, Guernsey 169, Jersey 163, Jersey 157, Jersey 151, Jersey 145, Jersey 139, Jersey 133, Jersey 127, Jersey 121, Jersey 115, Jersey 109, Jersey 103, Jersey 97, Jersey 91, Jersey 85, Jersey 79, Jersey 73, Jersey 67, Jersey 61, Jersey 55, Jersey 49, Jersey 43, Jersey 37, Jersey 31, Jersey 25, Jersey 19, Jersey 13, Jersey 7, Jersey 1.

Ice Hockey NHL Detroit 4 Hartford 2, Toronto 2, New Jersey 2, Los Angeles 2, Dallas 2, San Jose 1, Vancouver 1, Buffalo 1. Alpine Skiing European Cup (Lanshamer) Super-Giant slalom: 1. K. A. Agazzi (ITA) 1:01:33.1, 2. L. Alghardi (ITA) 1:02:21.3, 3. K. A. Agazzi (ITA) 1:03:09.6. Figure Skating World Cup (Lanshamer) Short program: 1. A. Agazzi (ITA) 1:01:33.1, 2. L. Alghardi (ITA) 1:02:21.3, 3. K. A. Agazzi (ITA) 1:03:09.6. Figure Skating World Cup (Lanshamer) Free program: 1. A. Agazzi (ITA) 1:01:33.1, 2. L. Alghardi (ITA) 1:02:21.3, 3. K. A. Agazzi (ITA) 1:03:09.6.

Sport in brief

Rugby Any Bath player who is sent off or commits a serious disciplinary offence during the rugby league match against Wigan at Maine Road, Manchester, on May 8 will be dealt with by the Rugby Football Union, writes Robert Armstrong. Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, has confirmed that the fixture will come under the union's jurisdiction with regard to Bath's players - the first time the RFU has exercised a disciplinary brief over a match played under RL rules since the split into two codes in 1893. Skiing The local favourite Ingeborg Helen Marken recorded her first World Cup win of the season in the last women's slalom in Lillehammer yesterday. Inspired by her compatriot Lasse Kjus, who won the last men's downhill on Wednesday, the 21-year-old Marken produced a flawless run on the Kvifjell piste to win in 1:32.18sec, beating Kjus by 0.07sec. Basketball AUSTRIAN CUP: Semi-final: Wagram 79, Schwechat 78.

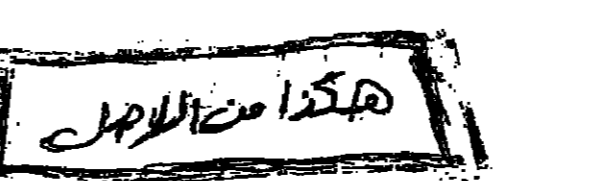
Acfield a little flat on his introduction to the attack

DAVID ACFIELD will bring the colour and personality that he once showed in the commentary box to the task of setting England to rights. "I want to defuse expectations," he said yesterday, "that this report is going to be a saviour of English cricket." Of course the saviour of English cricket has less need of wit and sparkle than a television commentator, which is just as well for Acfield, who may require a certain insight into the game. If he possesses this quality, the Essex chairman was keeping it hidden at yesterday's press conference. "Although of course I only have initial thoughts at the moment," he finally revealed, "I think it's fair to say that we might come up recommending just tinkering, or it might be multiple surgery."

Acfield, a former Essex off-spinner and British sabre champion, has been appointed by the Test and County Cricket Board to review all aspects relating to the administration, selection and management of England teams at home and abroad. "My first priority is to work out just how far my brief goes," he said. "Obviously everything tends to be inter-related in some way, but initially I think I will want to be concentrating on management, selection and coaching policies within the senior England framework." Acfield expects to recruit a working party of between six and eight people, drawn from different areas of experience, and probably including past and present England officials. "My view is that you only learn things by talking to people, and I want to speak with people who are not just involved with England now but who have been in the past." "I don't think we should be afraid in the next few months of asking questions about how other countries run their national teams. There might be elements of other people's structure that can be taken on."

neuv

still seeks sweet spot



Motor Racing

Richard Williams reports from Melbourne on the formidably speedy Formula One progress of the young IndyCar champion

Villeneuve fast to challenge

HIS SLOW, isn't he? The Formula One designer watched Jacques Villeneuve's Williams-Renault disappear down the pit lane in a wash of noise.

If you go out there and do decent lap times and don't bend the car and improve gradually, you'll never be really, truly, quick.

That was the harshness of the many opinions expressed in recent weeks about Villeneuve, the 24-year-old French-Canadian driver who makes his grand prix debut in Australia this weekend.

His manner and his off-duty 'high grunge' wardrobe will make him a box office asset

with the brand-new track. In that sense, it was the only time this year that Villeneuve could start a meeting on equal terms with the likes of Damon Hill and Michael Schumacher.

On paper, since qualifying does not take place until tomorrow, it counted for nothing. In the mind, it meant everything.

He is in with a chance because he finds himself in the best car in the field, thanks to the enthusiastic support of Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One ringmaster.

No one yet really knows how he will cope. The only certainty is that he does not much resemble his father, who raced with his heart and soul but rarely with his head.

"I'm used to it," he said the other day. "It's normal. It doesn't disturb me. People want to ask. And I'm sure that if I were doing their jobs then I'd want to ask about that as well.

He may not carry a ghost around with him in the cockpit, but he shares one thing with his new teammate, a father who was an inflexible presence around the house and with whom, even in life, he had an equivocal relationship.

On paper, since qualifying does not take place until tomorrow, it counted for nothing. In the mind, it meant everything.

Villeneuve now knows he can do it. And so do his rivals, none more than Hill, who left the road twice during the day. Runner-up in the championship in the past two seasons, with 13 wins in 51 races, Hill went to bed contemplating the possibility that his best shot at the title is under threat from his own team-mate.



A quick word... Villeneuve (left) and Hill prepare to launch the Williams-Renaults around Albert Park STEVE HOLLAND

You don't want to talk to. I don't have enemies yet. The team seems the same as the ones I raced with in Japan and America. Normal people, very open, with a good sense of humour.

When he tested with the team at Silverstone last year, the impact was mutual. "They didn't treat me like a kid who could be put in the car for a few laps and then thrown away. Everybody was serious. I don't know if it's the same in other teams.

Watching him in constant victory around the Williams pit with his manager Craig Pollock, a 40-year-old half-Scott, half-Swiss who was once his ski instructor, these do not look like men accustomed to losing their way, or to being satisfied with putting up a good show.

MIKE SCHUMACHER'S public protestations that he has little chance of a third successive Formula One title this season were belied yesterday when he posted fourth-fastest time overall in the new Ferrari F310 in two pre-practice sessions for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix.

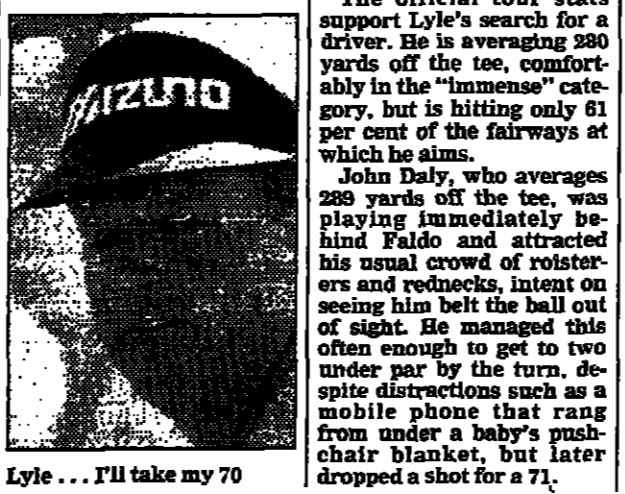
long-term potential of the new Italian machine, the German's best time was beaten only by the powerful Renault-engined Williams cars of Jacques Villeneuve and Damon Hill and the similarly powered Benetton B196 of Jean Alesi.

to fight for pole position or to win the race. I think there will not be a big challenge between the two of us this season." Villeneuve was a second faster than Hill around the 3.27-mile Albert Park city-centre circuit, although Hill and his lawyers were distracted by a row over insurance clauses in his FIA "super licence".

Schumacher soon has the new Ferrari firing

MIKE SCHUMACHER'S public protestations that he has little chance of a third successive Formula One title this season were belied yesterday when he posted fourth-fastest time overall in the new Ferrari F310 in two pre-practice sessions for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix.

77 threatens a missed cut, felt that his swing was "nearer good than bad" and was "just a smidgen off". But with water hazards on 18 holes, he now needs a near-miraculous recovery if he is to be competing over the weekend.

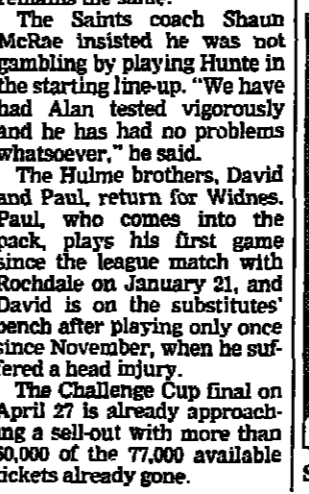


Lyle... I'll take my 70

Rugby League

Saints take risk on Hunte in semi-final

DAVID STRANG, Britain's European indoor 1500m metre champion two years ago, runs from pillar to post. No sooner did he overcome visa problems in the United States by marrying Ginny from Washington than he moved to Johannesburg in November for sun and altitude in his build-up to the Olympic 800m trials here in June.



Strang... struck down

Extra time Edited by Jeremy Alexander

Jumper caught in tug of kudos

ALINA ASTAFEI is due to represent Germany in the high jump in the European Indoor Championships in Stockholm this weekend. She could fairly expect to do the same in the Olympics in Atlanta; she won silver in last year's world championships. But it is not so simple.

Sixth column

FIFA's international board meeting in Rio de Janeiro tomorrow, will consider formalising and extending the advantage rule. Instead of just waving play on if a fouled player's team remain in possession, the referee would be allowed to let play continue as in rugby, sometimes 15 seconds, before calling play back and awarding the freekick if insufficient advantage has accrued.

FOUR ice hockey players at the University of Moncton, New Brunswick, have been suspended and an assistant coach fired after the referee awarded the University of Prince Edward Island an overtime goal.

DAVID STRANG, Britain's European indoor 1500m metre champion two years ago, runs from pillar to post. No sooner did he overcome visa problems in the United States by marrying Ginny from Washington than he moved to Johannesburg in November for sun and altitude in his build-up to the Olympic 800m trials here in June.

DAVID STRANG, Britain's European indoor 1500m metre champion two years ago, runs from pillar to post. No sooner did he overcome visa problems in the United States by marrying Ginny from Washington than he moved to Johannesburg in November for sun and altitude in his build-up to the Olympic 800m trials here in June.

DAVID STRANG, Britain's European indoor 1500m metre champion two years ago, runs from pillar to post. No sooner did he overcome visa problems in the United States by marrying Ginny from Washington than he moved to Johannesburg in November for sun and altitude in his build-up to the Olympic 800m trials here in June.

DAVID STRANG, Britain's European indoor 1500m metre champion two years ago, runs from pillar to post. No sooner did he overcome visa problems in the United States by marrying Ginny from Washington than he moved to Johannesburg in November for sun and altitude in his build-up to the Olympic 800m trials here in June.

Golf Seve still seeks the sweet spot

PLUS ca change, plus c'est la même chose. Despite new clubs, a new caddie and fresh optimism, the golf between Seve Ballesteros and the cream of the PGA European Tour remains a chess game.

Herron soars as Faldo flops

DAVID DAVIES in Coral Springs 77 threatens a missed cut, felt that his swing was "nearer good than bad" and was "just a smidgen off". But with water hazards on 18 holes, he now needs a near-miraculous recovery if he is to be competing over the weekend.

Saints take risk on Hunte in semi-final

DAVID STRANG, Britain's European indoor 1500m metre champion two years ago, runs from pillar to post. No sooner did he overcome visa problems in the United States by marrying Ginny from Washington than he moved to Johannesburg in November for sun and altitude in his build-up to the Olympic 800m trials here in June.

DAVID STRANG, Britain's European indoor 1500m metre champion two years ago, runs from pillar to post. No sooner did he overcome visa problems in the United States by marrying Ginny from Washington than he moved to Johannesburg in November for sun and altitude in his build-up to the Olympic 800m trials here in June.

DAVID STRANG, Britain's European indoor 1500m metre champion two years ago, runs from pillar to post. No sooner did he overcome visa problems in the United States by marrying Ginny from Washington than he moved to Johannesburg in November for sun and altitude in his build-up to the Olympic 800m trials here in June.

Ladejo sets out his stall, page 13
Dumitrescu wins his permit, page 14

England bank on strike bowlers, page 14
Villeneuve settles in fast, page 15

SportsGuardian

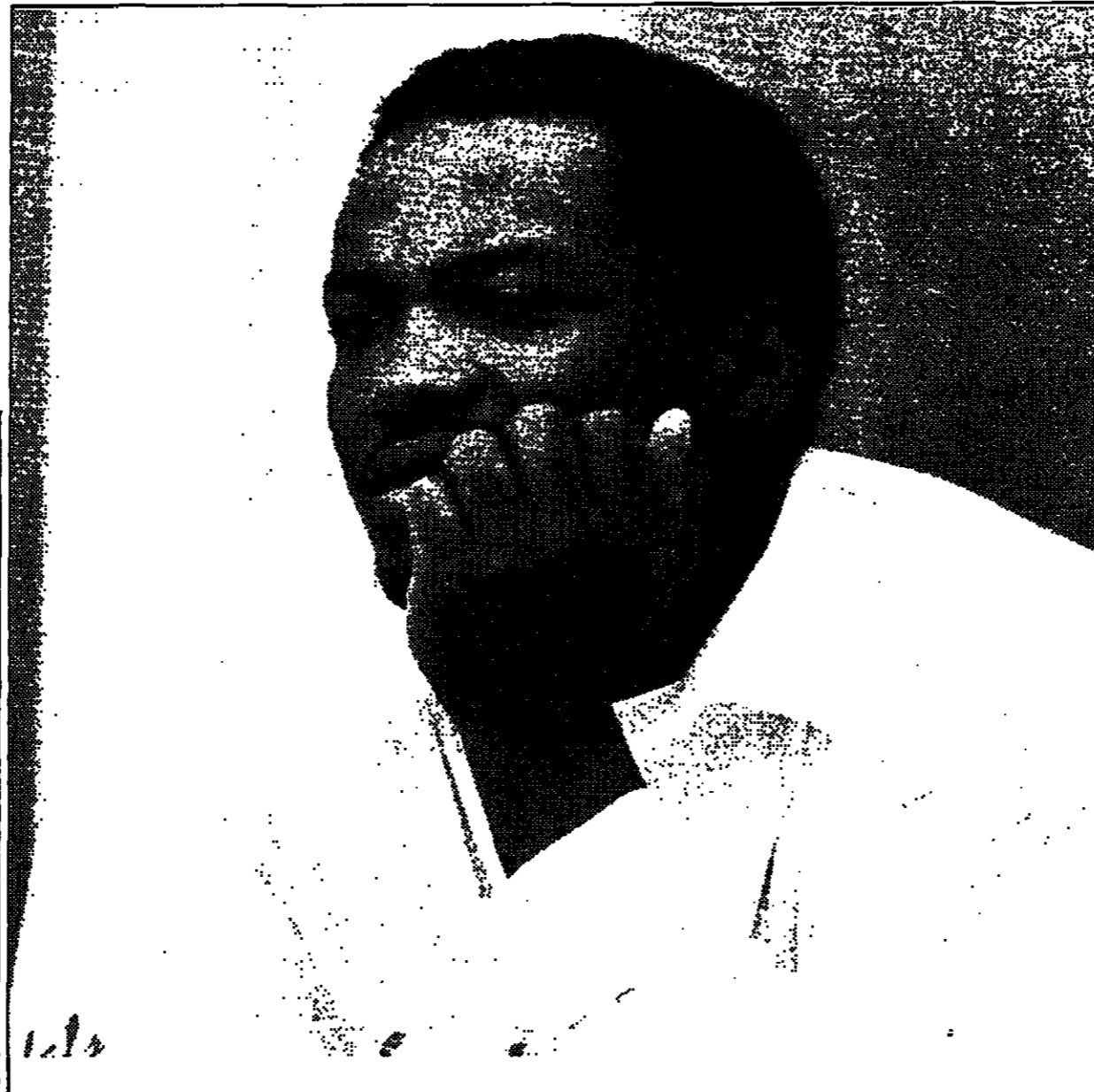
MORE TROUBLE IN THE WEST INDIES CAMP

Lara sparks new row

David Hopps on the latest thunderbolt from the World Cup's stormiest team

BRIAN LARA has become embroiled in another damaging West Indian controversy after an Indian magazine article alleged that he had indulged in an extraordinary denunciation of his team-mates and the management after their shock World Cup defeat against Kenya.

Lara is assuredly no racist, and even Bahal yesterday preferred to depict his comments as "banter" rather than suggesting that they possessed any racist overtones. But it is Lara's alleged condemnation of the West Indies set-up which will cause most anger in the Caribbean.



Foot in mouth... Lara could be in further trouble for criticising management and team-mates PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Richardson, Hall and Lara, hardly a trio made in heaven, had a tense dinner together on Tuesday evening. Before practice yesterday Lara withstood a lecture from Hall at the Ashok Hotel in Delhi. And a West Indies official, invited to defend Lara, exploded that he had no wish to do anything of the sort.

Lara, in transit in Delhi before travelling to Karachi for the quarter-final, telephoned London yesterday to speak to his lawyers and agent. The upshot of that was a refusal to comment.

Super League goes to war

Paul Fitzpatrick on the day rugby league's power factions indulged in a verbal slugfest

RUGBY league's dream of a future funded by Rupert Murdoch's millions suffered a new setback yesterday as rival officials from Britain and Australia traded insults and a judge in Sydney considered an application to have Super League banned worldwide.

Ken Arthurson, the Australian Rugby League's executive chairman, led the abuse by pouring scorn on the Rugby Football League's proposal to set up a competition in Australia if Super League

legally represented yesterday. "Had our QC, Alec Shand, not been there we might have been ambushed with our game seriously threatened. As it is, our QC objected strongly to the ARL's outrageous request and we have every confidence in Justice Surchett to reject this contemptible application."

Paul Harrison, the RFL's media manager, said: "Perhaps now people will realise just how sinister the ARL can be. How can they claim to have the good of the game at heart when they propose actions which would effectively kill off rugby league outside Australia?"



Wainwright was target say Scots

Robert Armstrong

SCOTLAND last night accused the England rugby team of "targeting" their captain Rob Wainwright, who was injured in last Saturday's international and is still suffering from concussion.

"If anybody wanted to target players in this Scottish side then there are only one or two that are vital to us winning or losing, and Rob [Wainwright] certainly comes into that category."

On Wednesday a Five Nations disciplinary commission cleared the England prop Jason Leonard of punching Wainwright during the Calcutta Cup match. Scotland immediately registered their disappointment at the decision but yesterday went further.

Twickenham, who made sure Leonard was as well prepared as possible to answer the charge, considered the matter closed. Scotland could have appealed against the decision but have accepted it reluctantly.

Save money on your home insurance and spend a little extra on your home.



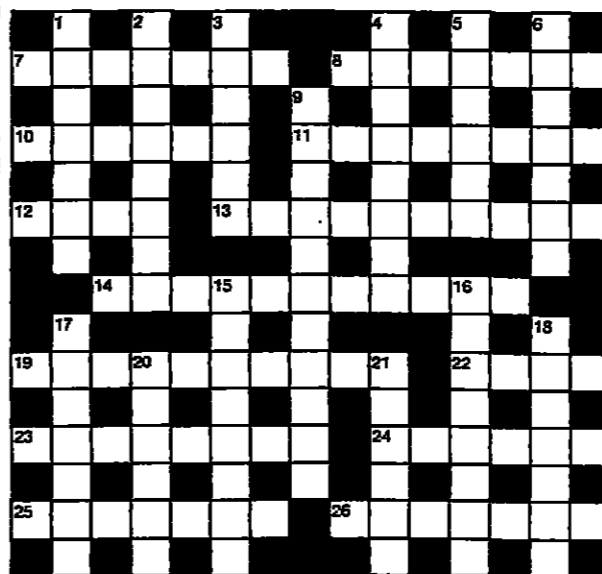
0800 333 800

Price of this quote varies on non-urban areas. 9am-5pm. Not available in Northern Ireland

In 1934 Truman anticipated "retirement on a virtual pension in some minor county office". A few weeks later he was selected for the Senate. Noam Chomsky

Guardian Crossword No 20,595

Set by Rufus

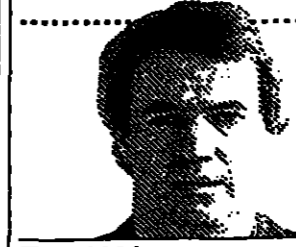


- Across
7 Beggar gets state hand-out (7)
8 Proposed feed for development (7)
10 He reviles a blockhead employer (6)
11 Certainly in drink, but restrained (8)
12 Hold up in Paddington, say (4)
13 Christian virtue fills a need, somehow (4-6)
14 A deep melody (3-8)
19 No man's land taken over by Napoleon (6,4)
22 Inadequate tip? (4)
23 Wild glen redeveloped for housing (8)
24 Ascent is difficult for the poor (4-2)
25 They may lead the masses (7)

- Down
26 Polish girl with German complaint (7)
1 Rose and disconnected speaker (7)
2 Keep quiet about suit (8)
3 Noisy drinker? (6)
4 Switch positions from time to time (3,3,2)
5 Points to one of several children as being bright (6)
6 Quite a few part with a pound (7)
9 Infant being looked after for no great cost (5,6)
15 They play by themselves (8)
16 Girl to sign for earnings (8)
17 Girl has the goods, but doesn't seem to know it (7)
18 Informal wear for amateur sportsman (7)
20 Motorway place setting (6)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,594
LITIGANT BARO
CLUBS ARE
TEARFUL TAPPER
RAIN TOWNHALL
PAYMENT DOUBTS
STANDSTILL
TOSHASTE
CHAPTER TOPPER
AROTEL
COTELE
CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,594

Crazy call for Botham is a cry for help



Paul Weaver

ENGLAND's cricket is beginning to resemble a murder mystery. A game of Cluedo, even. Did Raymond Illingworth do it in the dressing room with a piece of lead piping? Did Mike Atherton do it in the committee room with a candlestick?

Compton, Garry Sobers and Ted Dexter, all of whom knew much more about Test cricket than about Wisden. Compton says Dermot Reeve cannot play, which is to miss the point entirely about Reeve's cricket. Sobers's idea of captaincy was to beat a team all on his own, and Dexter, brave and brilliant, who batted like a young infantry officer charging into the Somme with a fistful of Brooke and a posthumous VC on his mind, preferred to talk about golf and astrology when he was chairman of selectors.

England's cricket is beginning to resemble a murder mystery. A game of Cluedo, even. Did Raymond Illingworth do it in the dressing room with a piece of lead piping? Did Mike Atherton do it in the committee room with a candlestick? The Test and County Cricket Board's spring meeting came up with no solutions at Lord's this week. Nothing new there. But at least it did not respond to the latest piece of numbskull thinking to come from the World Cup camp.

"SOURCE close to the England camp" tells me that everything is "brilliant at getting players going". Yet he did not get many players going as captain of Somerset and England in 1981, his most famous summer. England lost the First Test under his captaincy. He then got a pair at Lord's and jumped before he was pushed by the selectors so that he could concentrate on what he did best.

White on hand coming operation
itters
ter
ate
ut

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.